

Disability Now

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Matt Byrne, 19, from Nottingham, is the first person to bungee jump strapped in a wheelchair. He hurtled down on the end of an elastic rope attached to a crane last month. After the 180ft leap, he said: "It was a fantastic feeling. I started shaking when they winched me up but I loved the thrill of it. I want to try parachuting next."

NOTTINGHAM EVENING POST

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see page 22

Alarming rise in abuse

Complaints of cruelty and abuse of older people by staff in private nursing homes have risen to record levels, according to a report published last month.

The UK Council for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting (UKCC) catalogues cruelty by badly trained and poorly supervised staff in a small number of homes. It has called for better regulation and more inspectors.

The report said complaints have more than doubled in the last four years, from 15 in 1990-91 to 35 in 1993-4. A quarter of all complaints to the UKCC involve a nursing home.

Elderly patients were kicked

for not taking medicine, deprived of food, tied to chairs and had their money stolen.

In one case, two nurses forced disabled patients to walk without help until they collapsed in agony. In another, a male nurse made a woman with dementia take her tablets by holding his hand over her nose and mouth until she swallowed. One home was run "like a concentration camp".

Cruelty often continued for a long time because residents were too frail or confused to complain, and care assistants kept quiet, fearing retribution.

The report's proposals for matrons and managers include:

* Regular staff training on how

to deal with abuse and report suspicions

* A charter of residents' rights and standards of care to be drawn up for each home

* Procedures for recording all accidents and "untoward incidents" to be improved.

The number of nursing homes has risen from 1,350 in 1986 to about 5,000 now. The UKCC thinks the increasing number of elderly people needing nursing care has overstretched the inspection system. In Dorset, there is one full-time inspector and two part-timers for 4,000 beds.

UKCC president Mary Uprichard said: "The rapid rise

Continued on page 2

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DN07

GPs fear a two-tier health service is developing in Bradford.

They are angry that Bradford Hospital Trust has written a letter offering additional eye clinics every fortnight - but only to fundholding doctors.

Non-fundholding GPs like Dr Sue Tower believe it is wrong that their patients are denied access to the clinics.

Walter Bennett, 80, who has cataracts, is one of Dr Tower's

patients. He had to wait a year for an appointment, then, the week before his appointment, he had a stroke and had to cancel. He was told he could not get another appointment until January 1995. Dr Tower got his appointment brought forward to July, but the hospital has warned it may be changed.

Dr Tower believes that if she was a fundholder, Mr Bennett would have his condition treated quickly. "There is one rule for

patients of fundholders and another for everybody else."

Mr Bennett said: "I'm fed up. I've paid national insurance for 60 years and deserve better."

Bradford South MP Gerry Sutcliffe said: "What kind of service makes an old man wait for months, while others have exclusive access to eye assessments?"

The hospital said: "An extra clinic, which fundholders asked for, takes pressure off other clinics and so helps everyone."

Arts Forum is on the warpath

Disability campaigners are stepping up their fight to save the Arts Council's disability unit from being axed.

Members of the National Disability Arts Forum (NDAF) decided at June's annual general meeting (AGM) to express their anger about the closure, due in March 1995, by holding a series of demonstrations.

The first protest is likely to be on 5 July when the Arts Council's new chairman Lord Gowrie meets members of the disability arts monitoring group in London.

NDAF decided to target Lord Gowrie after he promised Paddy Masfield, a theatre director and NDAF committee member, "a deeper commitment to disability issues than ever before".

Disability media consultant and journalist Chris Davies told the AGM: "It appears that Lord Gowrie is more sympathetic to us than the council's former secretary general Anthony Everett, who was

behind the original decision to close the unit. We now must throw our weight behind persuading Lord Gowrie to maintain the unit."

The Arts Council plans to integrate the work of the disability unit into seven departments which fund arts-based activities.

Tom Shakespeare, chairman of the Northern Disability Arts Forum, said: "We cannot let this happen. The message from the Arts Council is that disability issues do not matter any more: they are yesterday's news. We must get our voice heard and show them that we are determined to save the unit."

Allan Sutherland, chair of the London Disability Arts Forum and a member of Disabled People's Direct Action Network, said: "Direct action needs to be taken because people at the top of the Arts Council don't care what we think. If we do things their way we will be hammered. *Telethon* proved we can get things changed. It is time to take action again."

Unique charity faces the music

An appeal has been launched to save the National Music and Disability Information Service.

Britain's only charity giving information and advice about music and disability will close on 31 July if no funding is forthcoming. Even the Arts Council has refused a grant.

Celebrity supporters include-conductor Simon Rattle, per-

cussionist Evelyn Glennie and Tory MP Emma Nicholson.

The charity's director Laura Crichton said: "If we close, disabled people will have no other way of getting our huge range of expertise, contacts, information and advice. Twenty years of work will disappear."

Tel: (0803) 866701.



Head to head: Comic Griff Rhys Jones has a new partner, disabled schoolgirl Sarah Plunkett. They present *Altogether Better* a video/booklet education pack, produced by the charity behind Comic Relief. It aims to dispel prejudice and promote integrated education. £7.50, from Charity Projects, First Floor, 74 New Oxford Street, London WC1A 1EF.

Alarming rise in abuse

Continued from page 1

in the number of nursing homes should be matched by an increase in resources for the registration and inspection of homes. It is worrying that no-one seems to be responsible for giving direction and being ultimately accountable for failures. The Government should legislate to enforce better standards."

Hazel Heath, Royal College of Nursing (RCN) adviser in nursing, said: "We are deeply shocked and alarmed and want a complete overhaul of inspection and registration. We need a robust inspection system which sets, monitors and reinforces high standards. Our research, due out next month, has shown the system is failing. Inspectors

are more concerned with counting taps than raising standards."

Sheila Scott, chief executive of the National Care Homes Association, said: "It is very disappointing when bad practice is identified, but the vast majority of homes are well run. I agree, however, that standards would be improved if nurses were given more training."

Health minister John Bowis said: "The report shows cases of abuse are rare, and the rise is small given the ten-fold increase in private nursing homes. We will be talking to the RCN about lessons that can be learnt from the report."

Professional Conduct - Occasional Report on Standards of Nursing in Nursing Homes, free, UKCC, tel: 071-637 7181.

Birthday honours

John Wall, chairman of the Royal National Institute for the Blind was awarded a CBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours for his services to blind people.

Stephen Bradshaw, executive director of the Spinal Injuries Association, received an OBE.

Other awards included:

OBE: Radio broadcaster Rabbi Lionel Blue; Holiday Care Service vice-chairperson Judith Chalmers and SKILL vice-president Jean McGinty.

MBE: British power-lifting champion G. Jelen for services to disabled sport; J Thomas of the Welsh Association of Visually Handicapped Bowlers; Mrs D. Chaney, chairperson of Wandsworth Access Group for People with Disabilities; Mrs E. Mathews, chairperson of the Arthritis and Rheumatism Council for Research in Pangbourne; Mrs M. Ridgway, chairperson of Macclesfield Society for the Blind; Mrs M. Roden for services to the Disabled Drivers' Voluntary Advisory Service.



Honoured: John Wall (left) and Stephen Bradshaw

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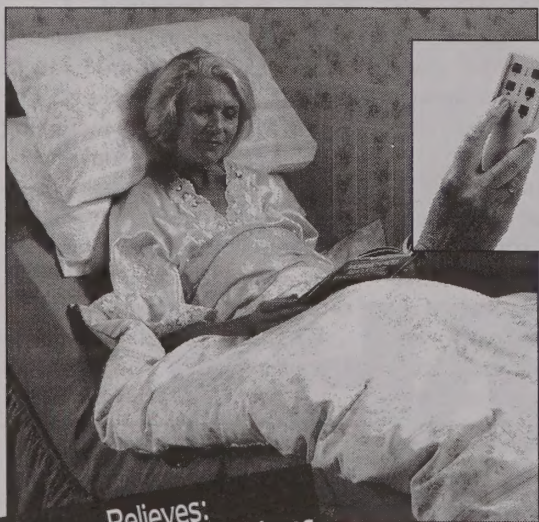
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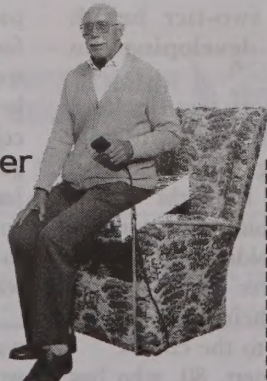
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Veterans ride it out

More than 160 disabled Normandy veterans paraded before the Queen Mother last month before setting off on a D-Day commemorative trip to Caen in 77 taxis.

Drivers gave their services free and the trip was funded by the London Taxi Drivers' Benevolent Association for War Disabled.

The Queen Mother reviewed the veterans at Horse Guards Parade while a band played *We'll Meet Again*.

Welsh pain clinic

A new pain control clinic opened at Bronllys Hospital, near Brecon, in May.

A team of psychologists, physiotherapists and nurses will use exercise and relaxation techniques to reduce pain, depression and the use of drugs by patients. The clinic also aims to improve fitness and mobility.

Treatment for ten people at a time lasts four weeks, with patients returning home each weekend.

The techniques were pioneered by consultant anaesthetist Charles Pither, who founded the INPUT clinic at St Thomas' Hospital, London in 1989. He said: "Often chronic pain cannot be cured, so patients must instead be helped to cope with it."

Tel: (0874) 711661.

Help for drug users

The Hungerford Drug Project, based in Soho, London, has installed a minicom and is providing information in braille, large print and on tape.

It has also carried out an access survey of its premises and intends to improve facilities for physically and sensory disabled people.

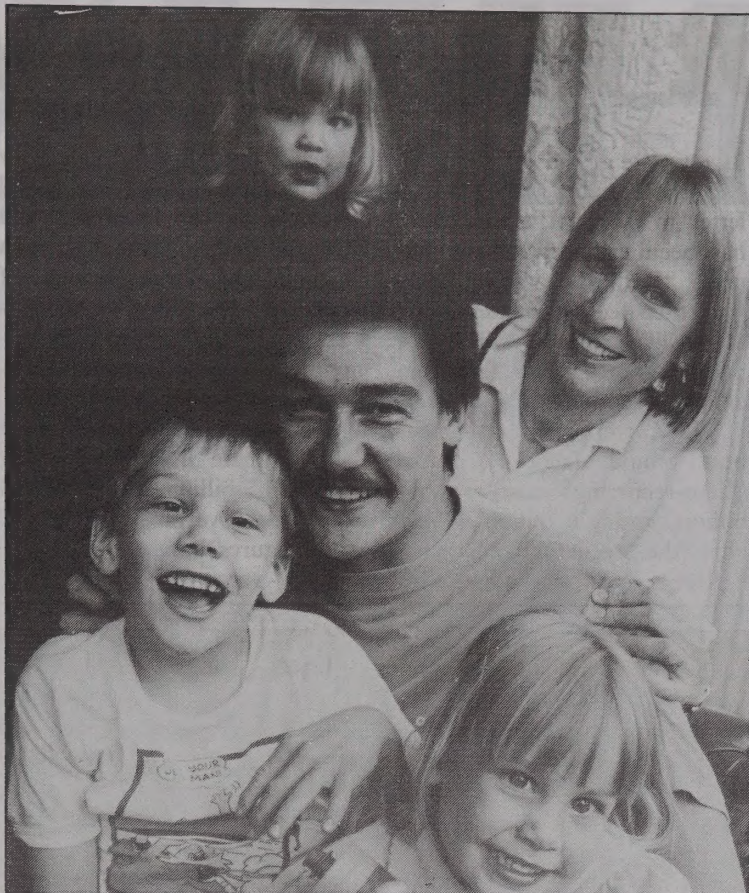
The project works on the streets with young homeless drug users, giving them information and advice and providing HIV/AIDS education in schools.

Christopher Percy or Jane Walker, Hungerford Drug Project, 32a Wardour Street, London W1V 3HJ, tel: 071-437 3523.

What's in DN next month?

- * Out and About, more bumper trips for the summer holidays
- * Teaching walking won't work, says Dr Martin Bax
- * Adam Reynolds on artists with learning disabilities
- * Community care, no 5.

... plus arts, motoring, share your problems, the news and, of course, jobs!



Lesley and Martin Rose, from Burnham-on-Sea, were awarded £1,115,000 damages in the High Court in June after Somerset health authority admitted being at fault after James, 8, (left) was born with cerebral palsy.

The poor just get poorer

There has been a dramatic increase in the gap between rich and poor in the UK, says a report by the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) for the Joseph Rowntree Foundation.

The richest tenth of the population is now nearly twice as well off as in the late 1960s, while the poorest tenth has seen no improvement in living standards. The number of families living in households with incomes below half the national average rose from three million in the early 1960s to 11 million

- one in five - by 1991.

Information on over 200,000 households was collected.

* A Barnardo's report said people living on housing estates and in most need of resources are not getting a fair deal. It urges the Government to improve housing, provide jobs and increase income support levels.

For Richer, For Poorer, £7.50, IFS, tel: 071-636 3784. Poor Deal, £3, Barnardo's, tel: 081-550 8822.



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Disabled woman makes legal history

A disabled woman made legal history last month when she sued her local education authority over alleged bullying at school.

Becky Walker, who has cerebral palsy, is claiming damages from Derbyshire County Council in a test case that could lead to other similar legal actions.

Ms Walker, 20, who is now studying law at Nottingham University, alleges that the treatment she received at Bolsover Comprehensive School, Derbyshire, in 1987-8 left her with post-traumatic stress disorder and drastically affected her self-confidence.

Her counsel, Peter Heppel QC, told Nottingham county court that three pupils, who resented her presence in the school band, started whispering, staring and passing remarks "calculated to make her life a misery with the object of forcing her out".

Ms Walker denied she was over-sensitive or that she had misinterpreted other people's actions.

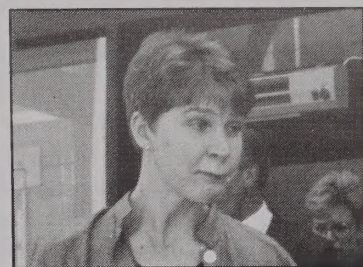
She said David Gibbons, the

teacher who led the band, ignored her pleas for help and took no effective action to stop the bullying. Her parents complained, but he did nothing.

Her counsel said staff had breached their duty of care by allowing the bullying to continue and had caused her to develop a condition which at one time threatened her university career.

But Simeon Maskery, who appeared for the county council, argued Ms Walker did not have post-traumatic stress disorder and suggested her condition was "no more or less than any ordinary human response to depressing events".

Judge Thomas Heald has reserved his decision until 7 July.



Becky Walker: fighting back
DOUG MARKE PHOTOGRAPHY

Not right from the start

How parents are told about their child's disability can cause major distress, according to a new report from The Spastics Society.

"Many parents are treated clumsily and insensitively in ways that can do long-term damage to them and their children," said researcher Anne Leonard.

From 30 interviews, plus questionnaires, evidence from the Society's Cerebral Palsy Helpline and other research, she found that the strictures of the Children Act (1989) and the Education Act (1993) are "far from being fully carried out". Parents are not treated as partners by professionals.

Instead, diagnosis is often delayed and questions not answered - one consultant told a mother before a group of medical students: "You'll just

have to learn to wait".

Information about services and benefits comes late and is "often incomplete and inadequate". Yet disclosures about disability may be delivered soon after birth in an insensitive way. Parents are often left feeling ignorant and alone.

The report proposes guidelines, to be worked out with the National Association of Health Authorities and Trusts, the North Western Regional Health Authority ("an excellent example" of good practice) and other organisations and parents' groups. It urges the Government to support them.

Right From The Start - Looking at Diagnosis and Disclosure, £4.95, from the Campaigns Department, The Spastics Society, tel: 071-636 5020.

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'Scott has got his sums wrong'

Alison Rowat reports

Campaigners have declared all-out war on the Government following its killing of the Civil Rights Bill.

The first assault will be made on the Government's claim that the Bill would cost £17 billion to implement. Disability groups claim £12 billion of that can be discounted.

Meanwhile, Labour peer Jack Ashley is reintroducing

the Bill into the Lords. The second reading was scheduled for 22 June.

In the Commons, MPs have tabled motions condemning the behaviour of Nicholas Scott, Minister for Disabled People, and the parliamentary counsel who drafted the wrecking amendments (DN, June). Tory MP Lady Olga Maitland was made to apologise for saying the amendments were her own work.

The most worrying challenge for the Government will be to

its estimate of the Bill's cost.

Nicholas Scott admitted in a letter to Tory MPs that there has been criticism of the figures. "But," he wrote, "they were prepared as conscientiously as possible on a Bill which was poorly drafted and far from explicit in a number of areas."

The Government says business would face an initial ("non-recurring" cost) of £17 billion, and £1 billion a year after (the "recurring" cost).

Rights Now, an alliance of

over 25 disability and voluntary groups, including the Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation, the British Council of Organisations of Disabled People, The Spastics Society and Mencap, is currently pulling the Government's estimate apart.

It will publish a critique of the estimate in July, showing how £12 billion can be sliced off the Government's figures. The figures have the hallmark of "a very rushed exercise",

according to one costing expert.

On transport reform, for example, Rights Now argues that waiting till buses come to the end of their natural life and then replacing them with accessible ones - 10 years away would save "billions".

It also says the Government has not taken account of sav-

Tories fail the jobs test - again

The Government's already poor performance in employing disabled people is getting worse, according to official figures released in May.

Of 558,900 civil servants in the main Government departments, only 8,384 are registered disabled. This represents a drop from 1.9 per cent of the workforce in 1992, to 1.5 per cent in 1993. By law, three per cent of the workforce should be registered disabled.

The worst performance came in recruitment. Only 274 registered disabled people found jobs in the civil service in the year to 1993, compared to 714 in the previous year.

Of the 36 main departments and agencies, only five meet the quota. The Department of Social Security, of which Minister for Disabled People

Nicholas Scott is a member, saw its quota drop from 1.8 per cent to 1.6 per cent. Number 10 Downing Street employs no registered disabled people.

Coming so soon after the killing of the Civil Rights Bill, the figures will be an embarrassment for the Government.

Labour MP Stephen Byers, who unearthed the figures, said: "The Government should be giving a lead to other major employers. Instead, they stand condemned for their refusal to take any positive steps to help disabled people."

"The position of Nicholas Scott is becoming increasingly untenable. He can hardly expect to persuade the public of his concern for disabled people when he cannot even persuade his own department to employ them."



Home Office Minister Peter Lloyd MP wields the knife at the opening of the Volunteer Centre UK's new London headquarters and the launch of Volunteers Week (1-7 June). Last year, 13,000 people phoned the organisation during Volunteers Week, asking how they could help others.

THE PRICE IS RIGHTS

The bill for civil rights, as estimated by the Government:

*Pay and jobs:
£75 million recurring (R)

*Transport:
£150-£240 million a year (R), £5.5-£6.2 billion non-recurring (NR)

*Environment:
£67.5 million a year (R), £10 billion (NR)

*Education:
£308 million (NR)

*Goods, facilities, services:
£765.5 million a year (R), £608.5 million (NR)

*Northern Ireland:
£2 million a year (R), £112 million (NR)

ings on welfare benefits and extra income from tax revenues if disabled people were in jobs, worth up to another £5 billion.

Jack Ashley is upbeat about the prospects for the new Bill in the Lords. In a letter to *The Guardian* on 27 May, he wrote: "It is now 12 years since the first anti-discrimination Bill was introduced in the Commons. The main reasons for the persistent lack of success have been Government smoke-screens and public indifference."

"The smoke-screens are being blown away and, thanks to the Government's stunning incompetence, the Bill has wide public support. Its enactment cannot be far away."

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New deal for pupils

Disabled pupils are promised a better deal from 1 September with the publication of the Government's long-awaited Code of Practice on special educational needs.

The Code, published in May, will:

- * impose a 26-week time limit on the making of statements. In the past, some children had to wait over a year;
- * establish a new, independent tribunal to which parents can appeal if they are unhappy with their child's education. Decisions will be binding on the local education authority;
- * ensure the regular review of statements.

Importantly, the Code stresses that the needs of most disabled children should be met in mainstream schools. They should be given a "broad and balanced" education, including the National Curriculum. The Code also boosts the status of parents, describ-

ing their knowledge and experience as "vital".

Education Secretary John Patten called the Code "a landmark. It strips away unnecessary bureaucracy and targets actions directly towards the needs of parents and children."

Anne Leonard, research officer at The Spastics Society, said: "The Society welcomes the Code's emphasis on the role of parents and the tighter time schedules."

"However, the new system of appealing through tribunals, while an improvement, still risks putting parents through a difficult time in order to ensure that the Code works. "The lack of extra cash, both to implement the Code and to ensure adequate educational support for children, is particularly worrying."

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Lethal toxin loosens muscles

A lethal biological poison is being used to treat children with cerebral palsy (cp) in Northern Ireland.

Botulinum Toxin - which can cause fatal food poisoning - has, in clinical trials, produced significant improvements in walking.

Children with cp are born with brain damage which causes muscular weakness. Some muscles contract too strongly and are unable to relax, making it difficult or impossible for them to walk.

A research project at Belfast Hospital for Sick Children has found that small amounts of the toxin can relax and loosen contracted muscles. Researchers injected the toxin into 26 children with cp whose thigh and calf muscles were affected.

Injections of the toxin caused the muscles to become less stiff. The benefit lasted for four to 12 months before the muscles gradually began to return to their previous state.

Fourteen of the children were said to have showed "marked" improvement, and ten others "moderate" improvement. Half those who walked poorly showed a substantial improvement in mobility and seven sustained their improvement without further injections.

The hospital's senior registrar Aidan Cosgrave said: "This is not a miracle cure, but it is a significant step forward. More

research is needed to determine whether the benefits of this treatment can be sustained."

Information from Anne Quinn, Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children, Fall Road, Belfast BT12 6BE.

Epilepsy appeal

The David Lewis Centre has launched a £10 million appeal to develop the biggest centre for research, care and treatment of epilepsy in Europe.

The Cheshire-based centre, which looks after 300 in-patients from all over England and nearly 2,000 out-patients in the North West, will also be using a mobile magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) unit to scan 200 people a year. The MRI unit is being jointly funded by the centre and East Cheshire NHS Trust.

A spokesman for the centre said: "The scanner will shorten our waiting list by speeding up diagnoses of certain types of epilepsy that respond to surgery and enable us to offer scanning facilities nationwide."

Tel: (0565) 872829.

Patch may save lives

Skin patches for mums to be may save the lives of thousands of babies by preventing premature births.

Scientists have found that a

patch used to treat heart patients give an unborn child an extra 28 days inside the womb. It is hoped the discovery will reduce the number of disabled babies born as a result of premature births.

Dr Christopher Lees and colleagues from King's College Hospital, London, gave patches of glyceryl trinitrate (GTN) to 13 women who had pre-term contractions at between 22 and 33 weeks of pregnancy. The treatment, which stops labour by suppressing contractions, prolonged pregnancy by an average of 28 days.

Dr Lees said: "The treatment is simple and could save many lives."

Nicotine trial starts

Scientists are using nicotine patches to treat people with Tourette's Syndrome, a condition which can cause involuntary movements and outbursts of swearing.

About 30 patients are to take part in a trial held by Professor Michael Reveley and Dr Serdar Durson at the University of Leicester. Tourette's Syndrome is caused by an imbalance of neurotransmitters - chemicals produced by nerve cells which transmit messages throughout the body.

Doctors have found they can suppress the condition's symptoms with anti-psychotic drugs, but many of these have unpleasant side-effects.

Professor Reveley said: "We do not know why nicotine is

beneficial to people with the condition, but by stimulating nerve receptors we think we may be correcting the imbalance of the body's neurotransmitters in some way."

The team will use a computer to help monitor the patients' symptoms and record changes during treatment.

Bone-scan discovery

British doctors have become the first in the world to develop a test which can predict when osteoarthritis is going to cause severe damage to a person's joints.

The discovery will enable doctors to detect those people who are likely to have the condition most severely.

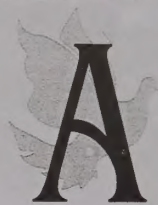
The development has come out of research by Professor

Paul Dieppe and his team at the Rheumatology Unit, Bristol University.

The test involves injecting a "bone-seeking" chemical with a mildly radioactive agent into the blood stream. Images from a gamma camera then show the arthritic "hot spots" where the condition is active. Studies of people with osteoarthritis over a five-year period have shown that scans can predict which joints are going to be damaged.

Professor Dieppe said: "A negative scan means the condition will not get worse, whereas certain types of positive scan predict progressive joint destruction. We are now working on the reasons for this and hope to develop a blood test which will do the same job."

An Arthritis and Rheumatism Council spokesman said: "This research is exciting and means doctors will now be able to target people at high risk."



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Registration details available from:

Jane Morrison, Events Organisor, Chartered Society of Physiotherapy, 14 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4ED.

Mum wants son at home

A mother is fighting for the right to teach her autistic son at home.

Makada Charlery, 37, from Newham, East London, has taught eight-year-old Marley for over a year because she believes his education has suffered at school.

"Since attending school my son has become a whole lot worse," said Mrs Charlery. "He is more distant. I have had to give up a well-paid job to teach him myself and it has not been easy to pay for his educational equipment out of my own pocket. But I felt I had no choice."

Newham education authority demanded that Marley be returned to school and threatened legal action. But it is now considering offering Mrs Charlery a specialist tutor to teach Marley at home.

A spokesperson said: "We

have been very concerned about Marley's poor attendance at school. Our preferred option is for Marley to return to school, but we are happy to consider home tuition. We will be holding a case conference to decide what happens next."

Mrs Charlery said she had no intention of sending Marley back to school and will continue teaching him herself until home tuition can be organised.

"I do not feel that I can trust the education authority for my son's care. If I knew his needs were being met I would send him, but I feel he would regress."

Mike Collins, educational adviser for the National Autistic Society, said: "I hope the mother can regain some confidence in the education authority and that they will be able to work together and find a solution to this problem."

Asian adults surveyed

A Manchester University research team is investigating how services for Asian adults with learning difficulties and their carers can be improved.

The University's Hester Research Centre has been given a £58,000 grant by the Mental Health Foundation to find out whether services for this group of people are reliable, appropriate and accessible. The team will identify barriers that stop

people from getting the support they need and recommend improvements.

Eric Emerson, a researcher at the centre, said: "This is an important area of research because many Asian adults with learning difficulties are missing out on support. We will canvass the opinions of disabled Asian people throughout the North West to find out how the situation can be improved."



Cheers! TV star Annette Crosbie (centre) enjoys a brew with Patsy Campbell and Chris Scully from Mencap's London flower shop. The three tea fanatics were taking part in Mencap's Challenge to One Million, an awareness-raising event which asked people from all over the country to drink a cup tea at exactly the same time: 3.30pm on 25 June. GRAHAM SIMPSON

Disabled staff 'locked out'

Embarrassed council chiefs changed a newly installed £100,000 security system at Wolverhampton Civic Centre last month because it was stopping wheelchair users from getting round the building.

Staff, visitors and contractors at the centre were given security cards which unlocked the doors when fed into a slot on the wall.

Disabled councillor Ray Swatman was furious, however,

to discover that the system could not be used by wheelchair users.

"The system was ridiculous," he said. "It made no allowances for wheelchair users and locked me and other disabled staff out of parts of the building. We were expected to activate the unlocking system, open the double doors and manoeuvre our wheelchairs - all at the same time. It could not be done."

"It was very frustrating because all you could do was sit there and wait for someone to help you."

A council spokesperson said: "The security system was approved by the previous administration. They obviously did not take disabled people's needs into account. We have now modified the system so that wheelchair users need only turn a key and the doors will swing open automatically."



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Young man placed in elderly home

A disabled man, aged 29, has been put in a Harrow nursing home for elderly people because there is nowhere else for him to go.

Paul Erdwin was put in Westminster House, Harrow Weald, because there are no other facilities in Harrow, Middlesex, to cater for his needs. He has brain damage and severe physical disabilities.

Mr Erdwin's parents were told by Harrow Social Services and Brent and Harrow Health Authority that the home, which looks after 94 elderly residents, was the only place he could go in the borough. The only alternative was to send him to live in another part of London.

Mr Erdwin's father, Len, said: "The council hunted round for places but they said Westminster House was the best they could come up with."

Mike Lazar of the Harrow Independent Group of Handicapped People (HIGH) said: "This is an appalling situation which highlights the inadequacies of services for disabled people. To put a man of that age in an old people's home is awful. I wonder how many other young people are put in this situation."

A Harrow council spokesperson said: "We place people in nursing homes when they need professional nursing care and it cannot be given in their own home or a hospital. When placing someone in a home, we always try to match the person's needs to the care offered."



Disabled rally driver Ken Ridley (centre) prepares to take his Ford Escort for a spin after automotive design students at Sunderland University adapted the vehicle last month. Course tutors Stan Oliver (left) and Professor Dennis Wilcock (right) explain to him how the steering wheel, gear lever and handbrake have been adapted. Ken, who was born with shortened arms as a result of Holt-Oram syndrome, will be driving the car in the 1994 RAC Rally.

Museums ticked off

A new survey has highlighted the problems many disabled people face when visiting museums and art galleries in Scotland.

The research, carried out by ADAPT - Access for Disabled People to Arts Premises Today - looked at the facilities of 46 venues in Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Perth and Stirling.

It revealed that:

- * Car parking spaces designated for disabled people were only available at five sites
- * Only six had an induction loop system
- * Wheelchair users often have to enter through the backdoor

* Toilets adapted for elderly and disabled people were not installed in 16 places

* Only Aberdeen Art Gallery had low counters for wheelchair users at its information desk and cafe

* 40 places did not give any disability awareness training to staff and only 12 employed disabled people.

But, on the positive side, the survey revealed that blind visitors were welcomed everywhere and Glasgow's Burrell Collection has "living paintings" which enable visually impaired visitors to experience a picture through touch.

Researcher Gillian Dinsmore said: "The survey demonstrates that it is taking a very long time for our museums to become fully accessible.

"Even more depressing is that newly built or adapted buildings still show a lack of understanding by architects and designers of disabled people's needs.

"We understand the financial pressures on venues but there is little evidence of a coherent strategy by managers to provide phased improvements."

Survey free from ADAPT, tel: (0383) 623166.

IN BRIEF

Sound barriers

Post Office Counters Ltd have launched a deaf awareness video to make post offices more accessible to people with hearing impairments.

Sound Barriers has been produced with the help of the Royal National Institute for Deaf People (RNID) and will be watched by 50,000 staff.

It aims to make staff more aware of the day-to-day difficulties faced by deaf people by highlighting the RNID's ten guidelines for communication with them. These include eye contact while talking, using gestures to support spoken words and avoiding the temptation to shout.

New cards for carers

Carers are to be offered emergency identity cards.

The Carers' National Association (CNA) hopes this national initiative will mean elderly and disabled people are not left alone if their carer has an accident or is taken ill.

The card will identify the holder as a carer and give the name and address of the person that depends on them.

It will also give names, addresses and telephone numbers of people who should be informed in the event of an emergency.

CNA, tel: 071-490 8818.

Ignatieff's a winner

Writer and broadcaster Michael Ignatieff was presented with a £1,000 cheque after winning the Allen Lane/MIND Book of the Year Award in May.

His novel, *Scar Tissue*, is a son's account of his mother's spiral into dementia. Judges Fay Weldon, Blake Morrison and Michelle Roberts said they chose it because "It is a moving study of age and death, wonderfully well written and insightful into neurological disease, and also informed by personal experience."

The award is presented to writers who "deal with the experience of emotional distress in its widest interpretation".

Door-to-door service

A new bus service for disabled people was launched by Readibus in West Berkshire last month.

Berkshire county council is funding the door-to-door pre-booked service on five different routes between Newbury and Reading.

The fully accessible buses can take six seated passengers and two wheelchair users. Bookings are on a "first come, first served" basis and can be made up to one week in advance.

Readibus, tel: (0734) 311414 after 1.45pm, Monday to Friday.

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Report slams 'patchy' support

Most young disabled people are being denied the chance to live independently because health and social services for disabled school leavers are "patchy, underfunded and poorly co-ordinated," according to a report by the Social Policy Research Unit (SPRU).

The report, written by Michael Hirst and Professor Sally Baldwin, compared the circumstances, lifestyles and aspirations of a thousand young people and found that:

- * Severely disabled young people are most disadvantaged and are often marginalised and segregated from society
- * The disadvantages facing young disabled people increase as they grow older and many fall increasingly behind their non-disabled peers
- * Parents and professionals

often find it difficult to recognise and encourage young disabled people's independence.

The report says there is no single government department or agency responsible for co-ordinating services for disabled young people.

It calls on the Government to create a working party to integrate services for young disabled people who continue to be denied "full social and economic participation".

Professor Sally Baldwin said: "If we are to value young disabled people, respect their contribution to our community and enable them to achieve their ambitions, these findings demand action."

Unequal Opportunities, Growing Up Disabled, £13, SPRU, HMSO, tel: 071-873 0011.

Ignorance a 'disgrace'

The lack of specialised services for people with epilepsy is a disgrace, according to the British Epilepsy Association (BEA).

Speaking at the launch of National Epilepsy Week, BEA vice-chairman Stephen Brown said: "People with epilepsy are

facing discrimination in all areas of their life because the condition is so poorly understood. It is not only the public's lack of understanding which is widespread; many professionals also have inadequate knowledge. This is a disgrace."



Lynn Henson signing and serving at the New Inn, Mansfield

Service with a sign

Here's some good news for disabled people who enjoy a pint and a bet.

Bartender Lynn Henson, who pulls the pints at the New Inn, Mansfield, has learnt British Sign Language (BSL), while Coral's betting shop in High Holborn, London, has installed a Gimson stairlift.

Lynn started learning BSL because many of the pub's best customers were deaf.

Landlord Martin Buxton said: "We have a lot of deaf customers but used to have communication problems with them. Lynn is now able to talk to them in BSL and the numbers coming in have doubled."

A Coral spokesperson said: "The stairlift has been a great success. We installed it because wheelchair users have to reach the next floor in order to place their bets."

Top doctors want drug law change

Doctors should be legally allowed to prescribe cannabis for pain relief, according to the heads of four leading British medical and nursing organisations.

Christine Hancock, general secretary of the Royal College of Nursing, Dr Sandy Macara, chairman of the British Medical Association and Professor Leslie Turnberg, president of the Royal College of Physicians, believe the drug should be allowed for treating patients with malignant conditions and people in pain.

Professor Alastair Spence, president of the Royal College of Anaesthetists, agreed and said supply of cannabis should be made legal and put under state control. He added that there should be controlled and comprehensive studies of the drug's potential benefits.

A Department of Health spokesperson said: "It may be that there are medical conditions which can be improved by the use of cannabis. But we would obviously need to look very carefully into this before allowing it to be used as a prescription drug."

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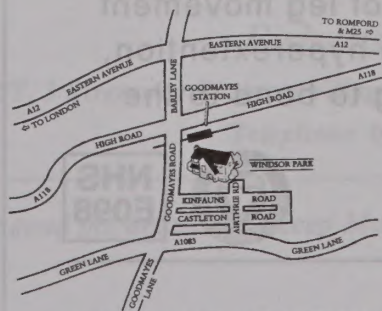
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Strong arguments for civil rights

Three international disability campaigners - Robert Mather, Robyn Hunt and Lee Bussard - visited Britain in May to highlight the need for anti-discrimination legislation.

Canadian disability campaigner Lee Bussard told a meeting in London, attended by Training and Enterprise Councils and the Minister for Disabled People, Nicholas Scott, that the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) has had a very positive influence on the quality of life of disabled people in the United States.

Mr Bussard said: "The cost to companies has been very modest - an average \$200 (£150) per disabled employee. Company size and turnover have been taken into account so that unreasonable demands have been avoided.

"A huge, talented workforce is being unleashed as a result. This is making a skilled, committed and valuable input into many industries and also enhancing the value of disabled people as consumers and influencers in society."

He said it was essential that the UK had legislation like the ADA and people were educated to change negative attitudes about disability.

The way forward

Robert Mather, a deaf lawyer who works for the Civil Rights Division of the US Department of Justice, also spoke about the benefits of ADA. He told a series of meetings organised by the Royal National Institute for Deaf People and the British Deaf Association that civil

rights legislation was the best way forward.

Mr Mather, who helps ensure that the ADA is applied fairly, flew in a week after the Civil Rights (Disabled Persons)

"I can understand how frustrated British disabled people felt when the bill was killed off because we had a similar experience in America. Some businesses were worried that the



Man with a mission: Robert Mather calls for change

Bill had been talked out of the Commons, and spoke with members of the All-Party Disablement Group and the Employers' Forum on Disability.

He said the British Government was wrong to claim that the bill would lead to a big increase in court cases and cost British business £17 billion.

ADA would not work and would be expensive because they were not getting the right information. So we produced leaflets and videos and got the message across that this is a reasonable law which benefits everyone.

"I'm glad to say that the ADA is now welcomed by

American firms because it makes good business sense. For example, when a pizza parlour decided to buy a text telephone and advertised the fact, it had a big response and the increase in sales paid off the price of the equipment in two weeks.

"You must work with businesses and persuade them that this is not a radical law. Companies will only be asked to make reasonable changes."

Business benefits

New Zealander Robyn Hunt, who works for a specialist employment agency, has also been speaking to British businessmen about the benefits of legislation during a two-month tour of the UK.

She said: "Law passed last year gave disabled New Zealanders protection against discrimination in employment. But ten years ago, the New Zealand Employers' Federation absolutely opposed legislation on the grounds that they could not sustain the costs and were not prepared to employ people who could not do the job.

"Now they recognise that they don't need to employ people unless they can do the job, and that nobody's asking them to go bust over compliance.

"Employing disabled people has brought benefits to New Zealand companies. A real estate company who employed a deaf estate agent was rewarded when he achieved the highest sales figures.

"There's a recession on and firms should be recognising that there is a market out there waiting to use their services."

First world stroke conference

Polly Laidler reports

The first World Confederation of Physical Therapists/Europe conference was held in Copenhagen last month.

The historic event attracted professionals from 38 countries, including Britain, Holland, Bulgaria, Surinam, Argentina, Israel and Australia.

Speeches highlighted some of the most recent and exciting developments in the understanding of the condition.

There were no miracle cures on offer, but two significant developments in the understanding of the way the brain controls body behaviour - neuromuscular plasticity and the interaction between cognitive and motor behaviour - were discussed. Neuroscientists believe the developments will improve rehabilitation of people who have had a stroke by helping them to regain better use of their limbs.

There was also widespread recognition of the need for therapists to co-ordinate their work and for services to be client-led so that stroke survivors, their families and carers, are more involved in the rehabilitation process and given a voice at last.

Innovations launched

A magazine which aims to share know-how on spreading information about goods and services to Europe's 50 million disabled people was launched at the House of Commons in May.

Innovations in Information, published by the charity, the National Information Forum, and edited by its director Ann Darnbrough, appeared as a pilot last year. Now it has won European Union funding for three issues in 1994.

The July issue contains practical ideas gleaned from around Europe which will interest information givers in the commercial, voluntary and statutory fields. For example, how the Theatre de Chaillot in Paris provides individual laptop screens for deaf people to follow the dialogue, how visually impaired people in Austria can colour co-ordinate their clothes, and how Romanian children have taken on the role of "health messengers".

Innovations will appear in English, French and German, and on audio cassette. A year's subscription costs £10 in the UK, £13 elsewhere (including p&p).

Further information from Ann Darnbrough or Andrew Cornish, tel: 071-289 1670.

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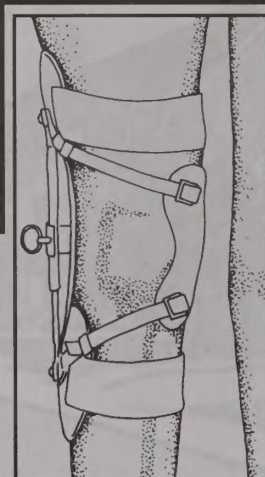
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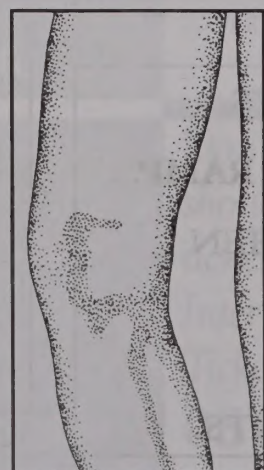
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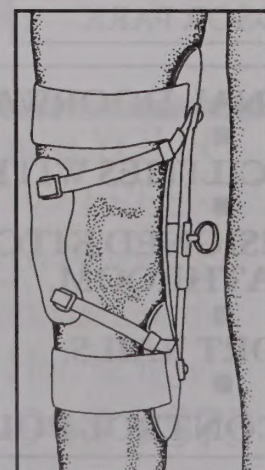
Knock Knee (Valgus) Before



Knock Knee (Valgus) After



Bow Leg (Varus) Before



Bow Leg (Varus) After

On the right track in Scotland

DN's motoring expert, David Griffiths, braved biting winds to visit the Scottish Mobility Roadshow. But it was well worth it

There is no getting away from the fact that a lot of disabled Scots missed out on a first class Mobility Roadshow. Interest and variety there was in plenty, but crowds there were not.

Not that they could be blamed for staying away. The bitterly cold, easterly winds came screaming across the Forth and ripped through the Ingliston complex with an intensity which saw the kilted fraternity reduced to just one.

Although the weather was undoubtedly a major factor, the complete absence of road signs and a major football fixture also played their part in keeping numbers down.

So what did they miss? Powerchairs, hand controls, community transport, disability publications and organisations, sand buggies, go-karts and the latest in disabled driver technology. In short, one of the best balanced mobility roadshows you could wish for.

Making its first appearance was, arguably, the most innovative exhibit - the Venturer,

handed operation.

At the press of a button, the twin-seating unit powers out clear of the machine to make transfer from a wheelchair easier. Once the driver or passenger is on-board, the platform glides back inside the roll-over cage.

Then it is ready to tackle just about anything, from a river bed or swamp to a snowy Scottish hillside.

Adventurous spirit

Billed as "The ultimate in mobility", Venturer could open new horizons for those with an adventurous spirit and a taste for the countryside.

Individual modifications and customising mean prices vary, but with the power-slide seating unit, 20 HP Honda unit and fail-safe braking, it costs £8,750. Scot Track Ltd, tel: (0667) 455592.

Toyota had their home-spun (ie Japanese) adapted Corolla up for test with centrally-mounted lever hand controls and cruise control. (DN hopes to have a road test soon.)



Scot Track's Venturer: ready to tackle just about anything

Inside the main hall, where things were a mite warmer, it was no less interesting. Alongside Alfred Bekker's very eye-catching, multi-coloured Voyager (owner similarly attired) stood the dream of many a developer: a Ford Transit with extended windscreen to enable taller wheelchair users to get right up front into the driving position.

Having cracked the problem, Universal Mobility managed to rush the vehicle to Edinburgh for its debut. No prices as yet, though.

Also on the stand was a superb, combined powered throttle and brake. At £1,400 it may seem expensive, but in reality it is a breakthrough for Universal Mobility, tel: (0293) 871019.

The Milford Electric Person

Lift is no ordinary hoist. Mounted under the fascia, it can be self or attendant-operated, fits all two-door cars and most four-door models, and can be used all around the home. David Walker, tel: (0629) 813493.

Firmly on the road

Manger Aids is not normally associated with motoring, but the new lifting cushion for passenger and driver sets it firmly on the road.

Powered by a reserve air tank topped up either with mains power or from the car's own battery, it raises the user to standing height to help them get out of a vehicle, and doubles up as a portable booster cushion.

Being truly portable means it is considerably more versatile than powered seat conversions. From £75. Manger Aids, tel: (0544) 267674.

I have only covered some of the driver-oriented features, but other notable high spots included power chairs, electric bicycles and a chance to win a new car.

Despite the lack of crowds, queues at the one and only unisex loo (badly designed and badly signposted) were inevitable. A second temporary loo was set up outside, but few actually managed to locate it.

Yes, it was quite a show - a pity so many of you missed it. Here's to the next, in a more wheelchair friendly venue with adequate signposting.



Manger's lifting cushion: more than hot air

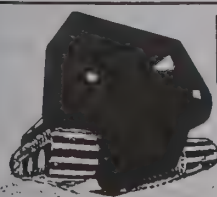
a four-wheeled, off-road vehicle with joystick controls.

The makers, Scot Track, have been producing specialist off-road vehicles for a number of years now, but this is their first stab at the disability market.

Hydrostatic transmission enables Venturer to turn within its own length, and the single joystick control allows one-

Toyota GB, tel: (0737) 768585.

Another of their vehicles, an automatic Previa, featured Lodgesons' voice-synthesised single activator for operating vehicle ancillaries, seen in public for the first time. We can expect more interesting developments from this young, up-and-coming company. Lodgesons, tel: (0353) 722050.



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Letters to the Editor



Disability Now, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ

The cost of civil rights

I was concerned to read the response by the Institute of Directors to the Civil Rights (Disabled Persons) Bill and the comments of Ira Chalphin (DN, May).

As an organisation which is actively working towards civil rights for people with disabilities, we would make the following points.

Saying the Bill is a "a mandated state benefit programme" misses the aim of this proposed legislation, which is designed to enhance, secure and protect the rights of over six million people. The Institute is failing to recognise that ten per cent of the UK population experience discrimination on a daily basis.

Whilst there will be expense implications for business, we must not forget that disabled people are being denied the opportunity to maximise their potential as employees and, indeed, as employers. Legislation can help change attitudes and ensure that vast reserves of human potential will not remain untapped.

Mr Chalphin's comment that it might be cheaper to give disabled people subsidised black cabs rather than accessible public transport systems fails to appreciate that

people with disabilities want access to equal opportunities - not special privileges.

Can the Institute of Directors honestly justify its participation in the exclusion of disabled people in the workplace purely because of the perceived cost implications to British industry?

Alan Dickson
Deputy director
Scottish Council for Spastics
Edinburgh

Defenders of Shopmobility

Douglas Campbell suggests that Shopmobility organisers are discriminating against some disabled people by not being available at the same time as the shops are open.

The Bexleyheath scheme is available from 10am-3pm Tuesdays and Fridays only. It has been operating for more than ten years.

Perhaps Mr Campbell does not realise that the time is determined by the amount of funding provided - if any. Bexleyheath provides electric chairs and scooters, as well as manual chairs and escorts, if needed. I also arrange for housebound people to be taken by ambulance to use the scheme.

Everyone involved, including the co-ordinator, is voluntary.

The money needed to pay for the ambulance and chair repairs is raised at an annual flag day.

I am sure Bexleyheath is not the only scheme that would be expanded if money became available to employ staff.

Marion Webb
Co-ordinator
Bexleyheath Shopmobility
Kent

How wrong Mr Campbell is. I can speak with authority as manager of the Rochdale Shopmobility and an executive member of the National Federation of Shopmobility.

The vast majority of the 92 schemes open on Saturdays and those that do not are usually restricted by the hours that predominantly volunteer staff members can work. In these instances, "core" shopping hours are catered for. But no scheme would turn away a user if prior arrangements were made, or if they were to overrun past 4pm.

At Rochdale, we did initially open on Saturdays, but found that our users thought the town centre was too busy and avoided shopping then. We do regular surveys of our users' needs and adjust opening hours accordingly - for example, Christmas late night shopping.

Mr Campbell's nearest scheme, in the Midsummer Arcade in Milton Keynes, is open Monday-Wednesday 9.30am to 5.30pm, Thursday-Friday 9.30am to 7.30 pm, and Saturday 9am-5.30pm.

For more information, do contact me, tel: (0706) 866676.
Maria Appleton
Public relations officer
National Federation of Shopmobility

Comfort in the air?

Appropos of Lin Berwick's article on air travel (DN, May), a party of 15, including four people in wheelchairs, has just spent a week at Eurodisney, France.

At Manchester Airport we experienced positive help from all the staff. Access was excellent to the plane. Lifts were available, chairlifts if required. The same service was available at Beauvais, France.

Airtours was really helpful. The disabled people boarded first in both directions and lots of help was given. Nothing was too much. Seats at the front of the plane were given to them for the extra room required.

It was a pity that some of the Paris Metro system was a bad experience. At one station, having been told that it had lifts, we spent two hours trying to get out of the station with two wheelchairs and pushers.

At Eurodisney there was positive discrimination with disabled people getting priority.
Jean Hollingsworth
Hull

While I agree with all Lin Berwick said about seating pitch in aircraft, no mention was made about the width (or lack of it) of the gangway.

I was booked on a British Midland flight with my granddaughter from Birmingham to Guernsey in April through the Channel Islands Tourist Service.

Two days before our holiday, British Midland cancelled our flight. The aircraft turned out to be from Manx Airlines with room for about 20 people.

I am a double amputee above the knee, with a stiff spine, weighing 12 and a half stones. I was strapped into a carrying chair which would barely enter the doorway. I was scraped and bashed against it and the chair could not be turned round. It was backed halfway out again to attempt a turn.

Then the chair wouldn't "sit" in the aisle. I was hauled up under my arms several times and it took 20 minutes before I was finally seated. I felt I had been assaulted and my grand-daughter was as distressed as I was.

On arrival in Guernsey I had the same treatment in reverse.

Flying home with Jersey European I had more problems. It was a degrading and disgraceful situation for any disabled person to be placed in, and health and safety on either side didn't come into it.

These small aircraft should not be licensed to carry handicapped persons until the doorways and entrances to the interior are widened, the aisles are widened allowing free passage of a carrying chair with a heavy person, there is deeper seat pitch so attendants have room to manoeuvre the disabled passenger, and arm rests lift up to give easy and safe access from carrying chair to seat.

I would like to bet that I am not alone in my complaints, but how many people have bothered to write to the airlines, tourist boards, airports, etc?

Maureen Hawker
Sutton Coldfield
West Midlands



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DN7/94

Naidex nonentities ...

Judging by the stickers people wore as they went round Midlands Naidex in May, no parents or disabled people turned up for the show. Just professionals, dealers and students. Maybe that's what the organisers prefer. There was certainly a muddle. On the DN stand

sic

we met parents labelled professionals and professionals labelled dealers. Whatever will the official attendance figures look like?

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... and nasties

Did you see the Medic-Bath advert in the Naidex catalogue? Beside a picture of what looked like a cooker was the slogan "Medicwash' Untouched by Hand. A New Concept for Carers. Wheel 'em in, Sluice 'em, Shower 'em. Bathe 'em. Wheel 'em out - Keep Dry."

Maybe the Medic-Bath managers should have first go.

On the ball

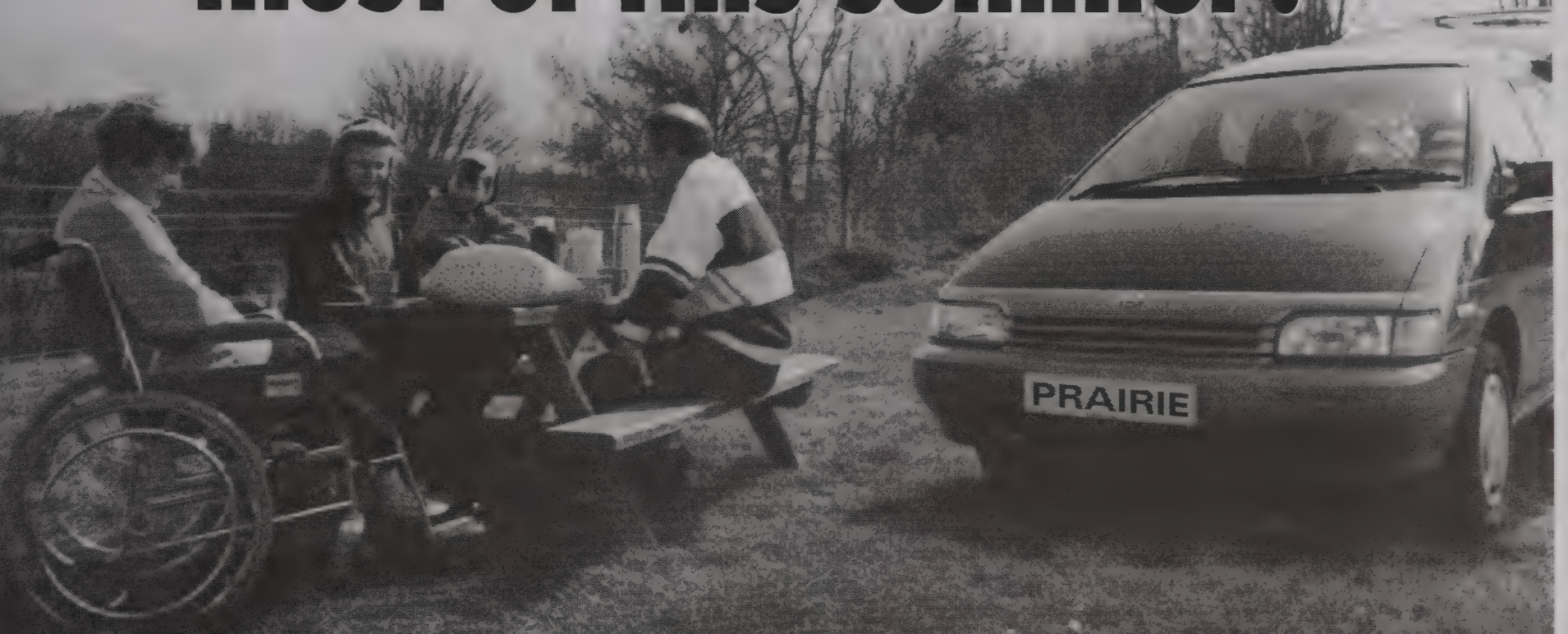
Italian football was rocked by another scandal last month. A semi-professional football team fell foul of fraud investigators on the trail of millions of able-bodied people claiming disability benefits. The team were caught red-handed drawing monthly disability pensions. Wonder what the penalty will be?

Knees up, you're under arrest

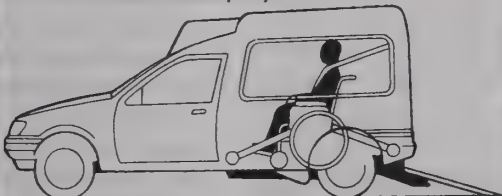
Did you hear the one about the 57-year-old grandmother and the Irish customs officers?

They impounded her artificial knee joint thinking it was a gun being smuggled in for the IRA. That must have tickled her funny bone.

Are you ready to make the most of this summer?



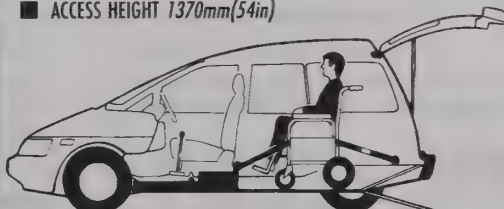
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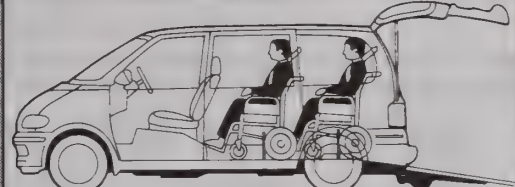
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IRISH MOBILITY ROAD SHOW, Belfast - JUNE Fri 17th & Sat 18th

NORTHERN MOBILITY ROADSHOW, Sheffield Arena - JUNE Fri 17th, Sat 18th

NAIDEX, London - SEPTEMBER Tues 27th, Wed 28th & Thurs 29th

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Sir John Mills talks to Mary Wilkinson

Tunes of Glory



Sir John and Lady Mills (actress/playwright Mary Hayley Bell) with violinist Richard Lane in Action for Blind People's garden at the Chelsea Flower Show (see report page 15). SARAH RIGBY



John Mills as Lieut. Comdr Peter Armstrong RN in *Morning Departure* (1949)

He came in from a morning on his tractor, blue eyes, blue jeans, an old white sweater, a red scarf - Union Jack colours. Earlier in the week he had contributed to the D-Day celebrations by taking part in a show on the QE2 with Dame Vera Lynn and other immortals. In May he finished filming a five-part adaptation of Dickens' novel *Martin Chuzzlewit* (he is the clerk, Mr Chuffey), to be shown on the BBC in October. Sir John Mills may be a bit stooped and deaf now, but at 86 he is not letting up. The trouble is that his eyes are. Two years ago, doing a one-man show in Australia - clips from ten of his 90 films bridged with talk - he found he could not read the film titles. He was told he had macular deterioration of the retina. His sight deteriorated, and now he has only peripheral vision. "There's nothing you can do about it, so I had to face the fact that I can't read or write or drive the car. I found it very frustrating, and then I found a lot of ways round it." Disability was something he had not considered much before, except in terms of charity. The son of a naval training school headmaster, he showed a talent for acting which, by the outbreak of World War II, had established him on the London stage and in films. He could turn his hand to anything, from Shakespeare to song and dance routines.

A few days before "the balloon went up", he and a fellow actor enthusiastically joined up between the Saturday matinee and evening performance of *Of Mice and Men*. He was 31. Only the Royal Engineers would take them. He was sent "to guard an aerodrome and a goat". Later he was commissioned and posted to a rifle battalion. He never went abroad or saw action, but he did organise successful shows for the troops before being invalided out with a duodenal ulcer in 1940. Yet so much of John Mills' reputation rests on the heroic parts he played in war films -

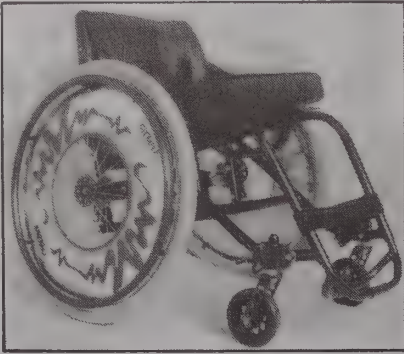
Morning Departure, Above Us the Waves, We Dive at Dawn, The Way to the Stars, The Colditz Story, Tunes of Glory. "It happened because when I came out of the army I was hard up, married, with a baby on the way. Noel Coward (a friend) wrote *In Which We Serve*, a marvellous picture about Lord Mountbatten's destroyer *HMS Kelly*, and that got me back into pictures. "At that time war films were what we were making. In a way, it was a slight contribution, because they were rather good films about the boys in the services." His acting took on a new

dimension in 1968 when his friend David Lean, "the best director in the world", offered him the part of Michael in *Ryan's Daughter*. "He said: 'Johnny, do you think you could play a village idiot?' And I said: 'Start casting'." His portrayal of the mute Michael - no dialogue - won him an Oscar for best supporting actor in 1971. Mills researched the part by watching a half-hour video about people with left-side brain damage. "Michael was a composite picture of what I could pick up from that. So at least what I was doing was authentic. I wasn't making faces." Could a disabled person have played the part? "Totally impossible", he said at once, and then hesitated. "I have answered that rather too quickly." He paused. "No, I don't think it would be really possible. You need years of experience to play something as difficult as that. You have to make the eyes dull and then bright. It's very complicated." Does he think of himself as disabled, having a disability? "Well, you have to think of it when you can't jump in a car and drive off. You do miss that freedom. "The thing to do is not to give up, but to press on and

do things which you don't think you can do." He still does his one-man show, two hours long, using large print and a spotlight, and is returning with it to Australia. His parts are learned with the help of a Walkman on to which his wife, Mary, and the grandchildren have recorded the other parts too. "It takes much longer but, touch wood, it works." He has a close-circuit tv which enlarges print on his desk, a talking watch, and a "marvellous" mini telescope to see traffic lights and people. "But when you cross the road, don't follow other pedestrians. I nearly got killed the other day when a car came along and they ran, and I couldn't see." He still plays golf, goes to shows with his binoculars, and watches tv films - from eight inches away. "The thing I miss most is watching rugby." He drives the tractor round his four acres of garden and orchard in an old world village in Buckinghamshire. "I've got a crash helmet, and I look to see where the trees are out of the corner of my eye. I've only had two crashes ..." Will his sight get worse? "This is a question I don't like to answer. My surgeon hopes this is it and the veins have stopped leaking. It has been constant for eight months." He touches wood again.

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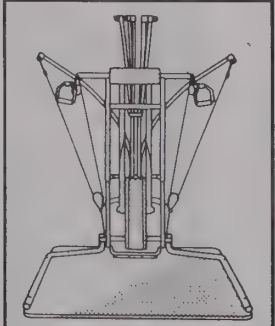
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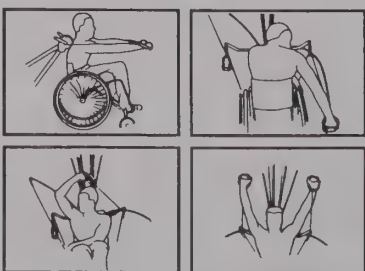
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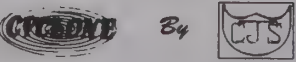
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In an English country garden

Gioya Steinke spent a glorious day exploring some of the best gardens at the 1994 Chelsea Flower Show



Gioya sits back and listens to the bubble fountains and wind chimes in Action for Blind People's Activity Garden SARAH RIGBY

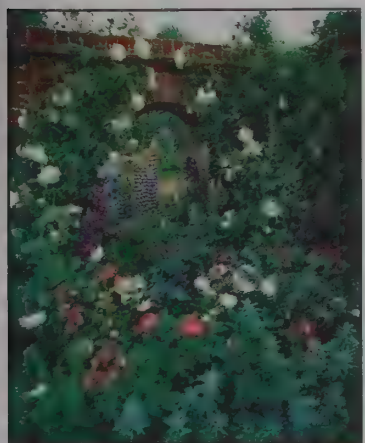
The Activity Garden

Action for Blind People's Activity Garden was splendidly launched this year by Sir John Mills. He has now lost most of his sight and uses many of the visual aids we find so helpful.

This was the ninth year that Action for Blind People had exhibited at Chelsea and they manage to excel every time. Everything contributed to the peaceful, harmonious setting, while incorporating simple adaptations that would enable visually impaired people to enjoy time in the garden.

The garden was divided into two areas. The activity part included raised beds filled with strong-smelling herbs, such as mint, thyme and sage, and a well set out open shed containing brightly painted tools, marked with tape and clipped to the shed wall. It left me with itchy fingers to get back home and rearrange our own garden shed.

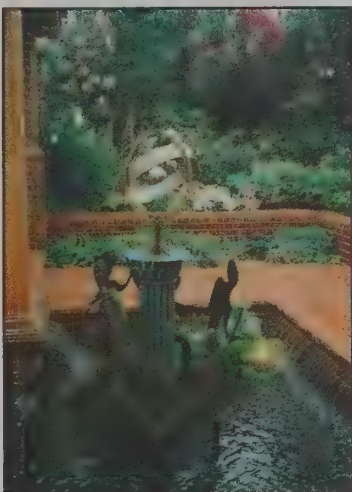
Wide, non-slip paving meant easy access for wheelchair users, and edges marked by darker, rougher textured strips gave warning of the borders. A firmly set line of white pebbles



Glorious climbers and shrubs

ran alongside - visually attractive and an informative guide for a white cane and feet.

Low flower beds were filled with shrubs of every shade of green and various textures. Great care had been taken so that colour and aroma complimented each other. A leaflet gave all the proper names, but I did manage to identify foxglove and aquilegia by touch. Supporting canes (a



Loud water spoilt "Harmony"

must for all gardeners) were topped with safety corks and delightful terracotta animals.

Two raised "bubble" fountains led visitors by gentle sound into the restful area. (Bubble fountains give the soothing sound of water without the dangers of overflowing.) The oval-shaped lawn had a flower border outlined with low, upright logs enabling a blind person to "feel" the lawn in strips for easy mowing.

Action for Blind People did not rely on the "scented" garden, so prevalent in many gardens for blind people. I found

it safe, inviting and stimulating. Although it won a silver medal, it deserved more for the examples of good practice.

The garden also marked the launch of The White Cane Award, a nationwide competition to find the best garden designed for a visually impaired person. For an application form contact Action for Blind People.

A space to breathe

Aptly named A Space to Breathe, the National Asthma Campaign's low-allergen garden was designed to reduce allergic reaction caused by wind-pollinated plants and pollen from trees, grass and mould spores.

Filled with shrubs and climbers, fruit and vegetables, it was stunning in appearance.

The traditional lawn was replaced by attractive terracing and the clever use of water gave an air of tranquillity while avoiding any build-up of mould.

Heavily-scented flowers were avoided, but a herb garden with basil, thyme, chives and rosemary supplied the aromatic interest.

Harmony

Help the Aged's garden, sponsored by *Hello* magazine, celebrated the International Year of the Family.

This year's design, Harmony, was built around a brick-edged sunken pool, which had at its centre a bronze armillary sphere to represent the continents of the

world. Despite the prestige of this award-winning garden and its really beautiful flower borders and "family sculpture", I could not spend much time there. The very intrusive sound of running water made me think about rushing off to the loo, and the

unmarked steps scared the life out of me. Still, it appeared to attract a lot of attention.

Action for Blind People, tel: 071-732 8771.

National Asthma Campaign, tel: 071-226 2260.

Help the Aged, tel: 071-253 0253.



The stunning low-allergen garden for people with asthma



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THE NATIONAL TRUST

Her day at Ham

The National Trust's Ham House has just re-opened to visitors. Merle Davies reports

Ham House, near Richmond, Surrey, has just been re-opened and the National Trust (NT) decided to launch the 1994 version of the booklet *Information for Visitors with Disabilities* there.

Ham House is not the most accessible place, as I discovered, but it highlights the efforts the Trust is making to welcome visitors with special needs to all its properties.

Built in 1610, the house was handed over to the Trust in 1948. The owner, Sir Lionel Tollmache, was a wheelchair user, and his ancient wheelchair stands as an exhibit in the main hall.

Entry to the house is by a Simorge Scaleamobil which,

when attached to a wheelchair, can scale a flight of stairs. The NT has invested in two of these stairclimbers (the other is at Osterley Park).

The ground floor is wheelchair accessible and there is a lift to the first floor, which I managed to negotiate by folding my footplates. The booklet only recommends wheelchair access to the ground floor.

Ham House's attractions include furniture, paintings, brocades and tapestries. The carvings on the main staircase were a tactile delight to a visually impaired member of our party. Beautiful painted

and embossed ceilings depicting heavenly beings featured in some of the rooms. There were a number of interesting recesses where one imagines members of the family sought privacy.

Lunch was served in the famous Orangery, which is normally a restaurant. There is also a cafeteria. Portable ramps were used, but the incline was steep.

The grounds at Ham House have firm gravel or grass, with the exception of the terrace which could prove difficult without a strong pusher.

The Trust is investing in Batricars and other vehicles to help people enjoy its gardens and countryside.

Although the NT believes in integration, visits are more enjoyable if visitors can see around the houses when they are least congested, and exhibits can be viewed at leisure. Where possible, they advise weekday visits, although this is a suggestion rather than a rule. It would be best to phone before you go.

Braille and large print guides are now available at many properties plus braille menus.



Merle admires the ornate furniture and paintings

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Thinking about spending days out in the countryside this summer, or visiting beautiful gardens? You'll find many of them much easier now.

An increasing number of the Trust's larger gardens and landscape parks can be enjoyed independently, or with companions, by using our four-wheeler self-drive or two seater buggies. These are provided as a free service for visitors, and we have some at countryside properties, too, such as Ashridge in Hertfordshire and Brownsea Island in Dorset.

Details of where buggies are available are included in our free annual 48-page full-colour information booklet for visitors with disabilities, sponsored in 1994 by Fisons plc. A copy (also available in large print) will be sent to you in return for a stamped addressed adhesive label, (minimum postage).

Please write to:

Mrs Valerie Wenham, Dept DN2,
The National Trust,
36 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AS.

The Sympathetic Hearing Scheme operates at some places. Adapted toilets are usually unisex. These services are noted in the booklet.

If you plan to eat out at a NT restaurant or tea room, there is no need to pack specially-adapted cutlery as it is available.

Two fully accessible mobility buses now run to Ham House, dropping passengers at the gate. The bus returns some two hours later to pick up passengers for the return journey. Visitors using public transport get a £1 discount on the entry charge.

I enjoyed the day out and was impressed with the positive attitude of the NT staff towards disabled visitors. They really wanted us to enjoy our visit.

Information for Visitors with Disabilities, free from Valerie Wenham, 36 Queen Anne's Gate, London, SW1 9AS, tel: 071-222 9251.

Ham House, Ham, Richmond, Surrey, TW10 7R, tel: 081-940 1950.

Mobility Bus Scheme, tel: 071-222 1234.

Research and Jennie Grieve
story by Nazli Hussain



Going Dutch

Just back from her prize-winning trip to Amsterdam (D)

Having looked at copies of the works of Van Gogh and Rembrandt all my life, I was now going to see the original paintings in Amsterdam. My husband, Harry, and I were off on an all expenses paid, three-day trip and it was my birthday too.

At Newcastle Airport, we were waved off with champagne and photographers. After whizzing through passport control and customs, we reached our jet via a new lift for disabled passengers.

We flew with British Airways. The travel agent had assured us (in writing) that there would be plenty of room for my wheelchair: the seat in front would fold to accommodate my extended right leg.

Hitch number 1: the charming crew staff told us that it was impossible for the seat backs to fold down, so I had to sit sideways for the outward and return journeys.

At Amsterdam's Schipol Airport, we were met on the plane by airport staff, who guided us through the large airport. Then we met a rep

from the travel agent. Hitch number 2: he said we were not due to arrive until five days later.

Eventually our chauffeur-driven limousine arrived. The driver left us to struggle with our luggage and wheelchair.

After a 45-minute drive, we arrived at Dam Square where we were dumped on the pavement in the pouring rain.

At the four-star Ascot Hotel there was level access to a marble foyer, and a large lift which took us to our suite. Designed for disabled people, it was out of this world.

I particularly loved the bathroom. Also, there was lots of turning space in the bedroom and well-placed lighting. We had no trouble sleeping with the heating on high (no electric bills or VAT).

Next day we visited the Van Gogh Museum. It was a very modern building and the collection, including the famous *Sunflowers*, was beautiful. The outside wheelchair lift was efficient and the staff helpful.

Rembrandt and the Dutch

OUT AND ABOUT IN JULY

Glasgow International Jazz Festival, 1-10 July. For a programme, tel: 041-552 3572.

Hampton Court Palace International Flower Show, 6-10 July. Free entry for carers of wheelchair users and visually impaired visitors. Tel: 071-630 7422.

Touch, an exhibition of sculpture selected for visually impaired people, until 30 July. Central Business Exchange, Milton Keynes. Contact Art in Milton Keynes for programme details, tel: (0908) 696303.

City of Belfast International Rose Week, 11-18 July. Dixon Park, Belfast, tel: (0232) 320202.

Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod, 5-10 July. Tel: (0978) 860236.

Head in the clouds

Jennie Grieve, from Nottingham, doesn't do things by half. When she decided to "discover Wales" she started at the top, with Snowdonia

I'd never been to Wales before, and as Snowdonia is the closest part to us, we decided to start from the top. My partner Tony and I tend to go on day trips rather than holidays. And when exploring a new part of the country, we like to do a straight drive through. Our 300 mile "recce" to North Wales was a real treat.

I was really looking forward to seeing the Swallow Falls at Betws y coed, and we were there by about 8.30am. As we'd arrived early, the Falls were not open. I saw there was a turnstile entrance - it was not wheelchair accessible.

Nearby there was an accessible nature trail, and although quite hilly it was a beautiful.

Our next stop was Llanberis Pass. There were lots of parking spaces for disabled people, and it was great to just sit and watch people go by. The



WALES TOURIST BOARD

summit of Snowdon were accessible and well-adapted.

The beauty of Snowdonia is that you can see the spectacular views from the comfort of your car, which is good news for those with less mobility.

On the way home we

stopped off in Caernarfon and took a quick look at the Castle from outside, just so we can say we've done it!

I've really taken a fancy to Wales. And since our trip to Snowdonia, we've visited mid Wales (a longer journey) and now we are planning to go to

South Wales as well.

Llanberis-Snowdon Mountain Railway, tel: (0286) 870223. Prices (return)- Early season: adult £9.30; child/disabled person £6.30. High season: adult £12.80; child/disabled person £9.30. Open daily till 1 November.



NETHERLANDS BOARD OF TOURISM

or free

Mary Curran tells her tale

ere in the Rijksmuseum, an imposing old building with, y, good facilities for disabled had not realised that some of the could be so large and lifelike. went on a canal trip. The boat had it attached to a ramp which took e saloon. During the hour-long w beautiful 17th century houses, r and the new opera house. Holland, but I hadn't seen any decided to go to Leiden by train. h railways are cheap and any n an access symbol has room for a . Unfortunately, we were too he tulips.

end of the holiday, hitch number turned up an hour late.

ed to the airport, were met by an al and had a mad run to the -passing the duty free.

to sit sideways in the plane again my excursion into the high life.

as fun to be a culture vulture.



Getting back to nature: Jennie with her three dogs

disabled loo was a huge lump of stone with a hole dug out.

Then we were off to the Llanberis-Snowdon Mountain Railway (see above right).

The views from the train were absolutely stunning. I felt as if I was perched on the side of the mountain.

I've never been to the top of any hill or mountain, and it was amazing to be up in the clouds.

I'd seen mountains before, but had not realised the sheer height until I was on Snowdon. We could even see the sea at Caernarfon.

There were two wheelchair spaces on a special train carriage, which runs two or three times each day, depending on demand. You can reserve a wheelchair seat in advance.

At the railway station there was parking and a toilet for disabled visitors, along with ramped access to all facilities.

The shops and restaurants in Llanberis and at the



udies Rembrandt's *Night Watch*

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Here's to the companies who care

Mary Wilkinson reports progress on persuading companies to employ disabled models

Major companies in the disability field are using disabled models or planning to.

That was the message from Midlands Naidex in May, two months after the finals of the Sunrise Medical/Disability Now Model in a Million competition set the media buzzing: disabled models were a "new" idea.

Sunrise Medical has employed winners Shannon



Model in a Million competitor, Maria Mansell, models a leg cover for J D Williams' new Special Collection. For a catalogue, tel: 061-238 2828, quoting code Z2000.



Jason on Sunrise Medical's Shadow Mach 3 sports hand trike

Murray and Jason Ward for a mobility brochure and finalist Rachel Laws for a hoist leaflet.

Mail order company J D Williams has employed Kenneth Cairns, a finalist, and competitor Maria Mansell in its Special Collection catalogue.

Wessex Medical, Possum Controls and Centromed have said they will use disabled models next time round and Motability has shown interest.

As Nick Duncan, sales and marketing director of Wessex Medical, put it: "I would have so much preferred to use a disabled model, but there was nowhere to go."

Other, more negative, reasons for not using disabled models were put forward at Naidex. Here are three of them.

"We have no immediate needs ... there's the cost factor and it's got to be the right

time ... we are a small company."

"Most of our publicity shots come from the States and they do include elderly people. We use whoever is available in our factory or offices."

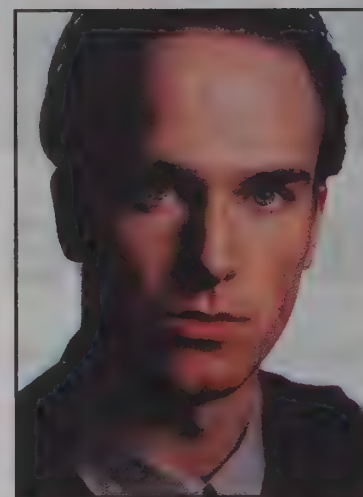
"A lot of stuff is done on the spur of the moment. People are not paid ... We used my mum in the hoist ... You have to be very careful what market you are aiming at - we wouldn't want to offend anyone and put them off buying the product because they think it is just for disabled people."

John McFarlane, sales and marketing manager of Possum Controls, said: "It is down to disabled people to make their voice heard. The disability market (services and products) in the USA has grown by over 50 per cent since the Americans with Disabilities Act was passed nearly four years ago."

Jason Ward, who was at Naidex with Shannon Murray for a public styling session and photo shoot, said: "Disabled people who buy products appreciate seeing disabled people in brochures. I do. And you can tell if they are disabled."

The push to attract mainstream companies will start when the models have their professional portfolios ready. Severn Trent Water Authority has already expressed interest.

For disabled models, contact Louise Dyson, tel: 021-554 7878. Cost: £90-£250 a day, depending on the job. Transport is no problem. Any assistance will be organised by the agency.

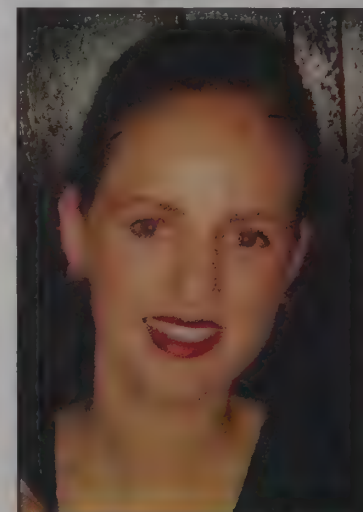


Shannon Murray (top) and Jason Ward (above) pose for their portfolio pictures at Naidex, which will be sent to prospective customers

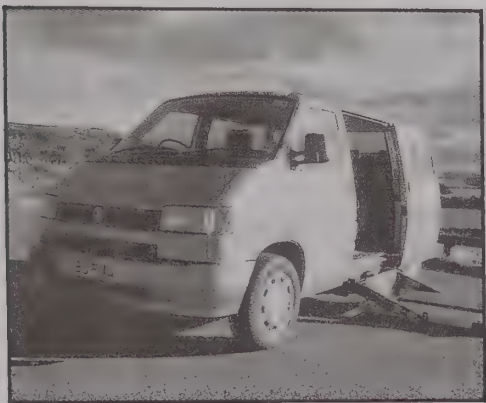
TERRY WHITEMAN PHOTOGRAPHY



Ian Noone (above) and Hayley Thornton (below) were Model in a Million finalists. Contact them through the Louise Dyson agency.



THE NEW VOLKSWAGEN CARAVELLE BY INVATRAVEL CONVERSIONS



Various options of wheelchair access available on this super new model, including underfloor electro-hydraulic lifts, hydraulic lowering rear suspension with spring assisted alloy ramp, manual ramps etc. Disabled driver options for full independence.

Prices start from £14,750.00 on the road excluding all taxes from which disabled users are exempt.



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fax: 0704-506607. 66 Knob Hall
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Recognised Converter

THEATRE

Grimm tales

Lurking just beneath consciousness, in most of us, is a tangled morass of childhood remembrances and half-recollections, surfacing occasionally to menace us in our dreams.

Although much remains submerged, we are able to recall these experiences through the world of fairy tales. Sometimes these "memories" come alive when we tell tales to our children or when, perchance, they intrude on our waking thoughts and actions. Heine's *The Lorelei* tells of "a fairy-tale of olden times that I cannot quite get out of my head". So it is with *Grimm*, a play based on two of Grimm's Fairy Tales and told to chilling effect by The New Breed Theatre Company.

At first, *Grimm* seems to be the re-telling of children's tales. But the scene rapidly changes to a frightening masterpiece of sexual and murderous villainy through



New Breed drags us to another world using surreal, painterly imagery

JONATHAN KEENAN

devices which cleverly meld the innocence of growing up with sexual appetite.

Attitudes, questions and horrors are aired, not without ironic humour. We may shy away from facing subconscious dramas, but they have a habit of rising to haunt us. New Breed drags us to this other

world using surreal, painterly imagery, shock and skilled narrative, combined with an expert twisting of the supernatural scalpel to reveal our hidden nightmares.

Grimm, the result of many workshops and countless hours of fine-tuning with disabled and non-disabled actors,

presents a splendid tableau of horrors. Although it won the Barclays New Stages award, it doesn't seem to be destined for a re-run. It is a shame too that this entertaining play, despite good attendances in the north, has not attracted bigger audiences here in London.

Kit Wells

FILM

Andy Kimpton-Nye



According to Argentinean director Maria Luisa Bemberg, this romantic fable is dedicated to "all people who have the courage to be different in order to be themselves".

Leonor (Luisina Brando) is a middle-aged widow living in the small town of San Jose de los Altares. She has a daughter, Charlotte (Alejandra Podesta), who is very small. Leonor sets about eradicating any offensive reference to her daughter's impairment - smashing up gnomes and burning books such as *Tom*

We don't want to talk about it

Thumb. Leonor makes it her life's goal to ensure no-one ever talks about her child's disability (hence the title).

Along comes mysterious traveller Ludovico D'Andrea (Marcello Mastroianni), who can't stop telling tales of far-off places. He buys Charlotte a white horse, spies her riding and falls in love. Sure enough, Ludovico and Charlotte are married. All concerned are apparently happy until the circus comes to town and takes Charlotte away.

Why is this straightforward tale unsatisfactory? Because nothing is as it seems.

Leonor is a grand matriarch who protects her disabled child by denying her impairment exists. She arranges a marvellous birthday present for her daughter which, however

inadvertently, leads to a proposal of marriage. She maintains her campaign of denial by trying to stop the circus coming to town and subsequently losing the child she loves so much.

Ludvico is an outsider who intrudes on a small community. He ingratiates himself by spinning wonderful stories, provides Charlotte with a magnificent gift, falls in love with her, gains her mother's trust and weds her only to lose her.

Charlotte is over-protected due to her disability. She receives a fine horse, an offer of marriage and a husband. But she finally leaves town with the circus, which appears to have a magnetic pull on her.

Who out of this motley crew is actually portrayed as having "the courage to be different"?

Not Leonor. She wants to deny disability exists. Not Ludovico. He too is happy to subscribe to this doctrine of disavowal in order to get and keep his "woman". Certainly not Charlotte. She is totally passive throughout the film - more done to than doing. Joining the circus is her one grand gesture of defiance.

The trouble is circuses are associated with freak shows, so Charlotte's gesture cannot be read as daring "to be different". What the film really says is that she is running off to hide away with her "own kind".

It would have been a truly courageous outcome if Charlotte had been allowed to remain in the town, happily married and celebrating her difference.

Disney): Bette Midler in dark and dull witchcraft comedy. □

3 DAVE (Warner): Kevin Kline in romance-comedy as President's double. □

4 THE PIANO (Entertainment Video - EV): Holly Hunter struggles to free herself from drab hubby. (N)

5 THE FUGITIVE (Warner): Will Harrison Ford find the one-armed man? □

Chart courtesy of MRIB

Look out for

Northgate Arts Project's *Flowers and Fish*, work by adults with learning disabilities, is at the Queen's Hall Arts Centre, Hexham until 16 July. Other dates and places: Jane Dudman, tel: (0670) 512281.

Museum Insight at the Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, 6-7 July, for people with sight disability, includes guided tours and hands-on exhibits. Tel: 021-455 6363.

50th Cheltenham International Festival of Music, 2-17 July, includes percussionist Evelyn Glennie on 14 July. Tel: (0242) 227979.

The York Early Music Festival, 8-17 July, has its brochure on tape. Free. Tel: (0904) 645738.

See the Summer Exhibition at the Royal Academy, London, on 11 July. Free access day for disabled visitors. Lift, area to eat sandwiches, restaurant/bar. Tel: 071-494 5681.

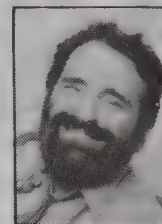
Video top five

□ DN will be using the symbol (left) from now on to show which videos include closed captions. The other initials will remain the same: S: subtitles, N: nothing.

1 DEMOLITION MAN (Warner): Sly Stallone/Wesley Snipes in futuristic action movie. □

2 HOCUS POCUS (Walt

TV



Chris Davies

The one good thing to come out of the row over the Civil Rights Bill was the amount of coverage it got. All the news programmes put it high on their agenda, and the issue even found its way into *Spitting Image* and *Have I Got News for You*?

I can't help wondering what would have happened if the Bill had passed smoothly into law, or if the issue had not become a father-daughter disagreement. I would like to think that if the minister and the Government had acted more honourably, the new law would have received the same amount of attention. Who knows?

Victoria Scott should not have had to become "hot news". That she put herself on the line on our behalf should not go unrecognised. She is our strongest ally, much more so than her father.

There was a noticeable absence of any investigative programme to explain the background to the row, aside from a *Kilroy* debate and the first in Channel 4's new public opinion programme, *The Slot* (C4, 23 May).

The only one that came close was *Sign On* (C4, 4 June). Welcome though this was, it was hardly going to reach the wider public who had tuned into the news.

Why didn't *Link* re-arrange its schedule? Why wasn't there a *From the Edge* special?

A documentary explaining disability discrimination, *The Invisible Wall*, produced by the Disability Programmes Unit, and another from People First, will appear too late. It is a tragedy that this gap exists: the issues aren't a news priority.

Julia's Baby (C4, 26 May) monitored the progress of an "unusual" pregnancy. Julia is a single mother and deaf-blind. Independence, rather than her impairment, was Julia's obsession. Although mother and daughter are doing well, it sometimes seemed as though Julia's attitude was detracting from her efforts to prove her competence as a mum. It will be interesting to compare this programme with the third People First documentary, *Mum's the Word* (C4, 9 June).

The first two programmes in this series, *Face Value* (C4, 26 May) and *Black and Blue* (C4, 2 June), looked at attitudes towards facial disfigurements and the incidence of mental illness in the black community.

Both were interesting and informative, but hardly at the top of the agenda for disabled people generally - unlike anti-discrimination legislation.



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

(4) DN's tv columnist Chris Davies explains the ups and downs of finding assistance and keeping it

Wednesday, 9 November 1983: the day I began my independent life. Until then, most of my needs had been met by a loving parent. At 37, I had to begin on my own.

In many ways my story is not typical. Most disabled people have a huge turnover of helpers. Of my first three assistants, one stayed for nine-and-a-half years.

Also, the way my assistance was arranged at first was unusual - pioneering, in fact. I wanted to live in London to make tv programmes for a production company I had formed. The cost of the facilitators was built into the budget. In effect, Channel 4 paid.

For 16 weeks I shared three Community Service Volunteers (CSVs) with another wheelchair user. Afterwards, two wanted to stay on. I had to find work.

Luckily, I persuaded The Spastics Society to give me a job and build into my salary a margin which paid my assistants a higher rate than CSV. Everyone was satisfied - we all had job security, and they had more money and variety, working alternate weekdays and sharing weekends.

Management cares



Three-way help: Chris Davies with (from left) Martin Lynas, Mads Buhl and Birgit Umland

TIM RUSSELL

One assistant left to get married after three years, so that left Phil. He stayed, on his own, for another five years.

Easy life with a fixer

Phil was the ultimate fixer. He could turn his hand to anything and do it almost before you asked him. Life was a breeze for me - in retrospect, probably too much so. But if I had the power, I would give every disabled person with the potential to live independently a clone of Phil - for a short while.

During this time I settled in the London borough of Camden. I asked if they would take over responsibility for funding and organising my

independent living, which they did under their Home Care Scheme, now the Camden Independent Living Scheme (ILS).

In April '93, Phil also left to get married. For the previous six months he had been part-time and I had been asking friends to fill in the gaps.

Hunt the perfect assistant

Finding people to work full-time was far harder than I ever anticipated, particularly as I need personal care, secretarial support and car drivers.

Apart from one assistant, now replaced by his friend Mads Buhl, I relied on friends of friends. They were not

suited to the job. They did not want to give much time to it (two days a week maximum). They found it physically too hard for too low a wage, and they had so little interest that they kept changing the rota to suit themselves.

Between January and December I had eight assistants. Life was difficult.

Camden ILS did what it could to help, paying for three recruitment ads, in Camden, in London (*Time Out*) and in a national paper (*The Guardian*). I recruited no one by that route.

From bad to worse

Things were going from bad to worse. The "group" conferred

together in the bathroom about my failings as a manager. Maybe I got paranoid, but I felt I had to go to a private agency.

Active Assistance, run by Bill Allen and wheelchair user Peter Henry, knows what it is about, and can supply permanent placements (usually three to nine months) or holiday respite care. Through the agency, I found Martin Lynas in February this year, who is still with me.

Birgit Umland, my third assistant, came from auxiliary nursing via Camden ILS.

Because the Government does not permit disabled people to make direct payments to their assistants (except in Scotland), mine are self-employed through Camden. They are paid £60 a day to which I contribute when I am in work. Camden has one of the largest schemes in London with 45 people assisting 20 disabled people.

Two assistants were easiest to manage, but three certainly doesn't have the mind-blowing complications of six.

Employee and friend?

I know some disabled people who prefer large numbers because they can maintain a detached, professional relationship. This is not to my taste, and may not be possible, either. My assistants are involved in every part of my life and this proximity breeds a close relationship.

I realise my independence can be compromised if I begin to treat them as friends and confidantes - it is more difficult to say "no" - and they may not want to be so involved, anyway. But it is easier to "negotiate" when you are treating someone as an equal than when they are just there to obey.

We now have an established routine and I try to do things in a more methodical way.

As my experience grows and my skills improve, I hope I can assess my needs more accurately, draw up realistic job and person specifications that meet my ideal PA, and judge applicants better.

Experience worth having is seldom easy, I tell myself. I think I'm catching up. But it looks as if I may have to recruit again soon. It feels like painting the Firth of Forth Bridge.

Community Service Volunteers
237 Pentonville Road, London
N1 9NL, tel: 071-278 6601.
Active Assistance, 85 Strickland
Gate, Kendal, Cumbria LA9
4RA, tel: (0539) 730674.
Camden Independent Living
Scheme, Camden Social
Services, 79 Camden Road,
London NW1 9ES, tel:
071-413 6683.



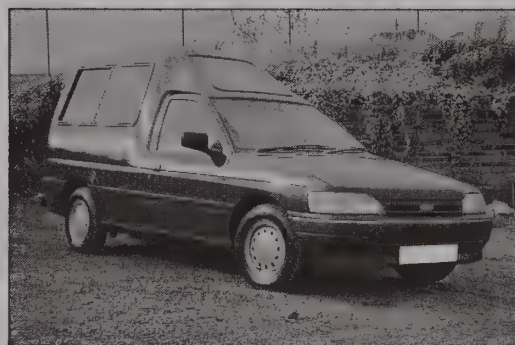
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MOBILITY

Keep fit and stay active is the message for wheelchair users

by Rob Jackson

There were few new products on display at Birmingham's National Exhibition Centre in May. Many manufacturers stayed away, preferring to be represented by agents or retailers. Ashley Healthcare, Keep Able and David Wenman (Associates) were busy demonstrating mobility products by a number of manufacturers.

Local to the West Midlands, they were also there to promote their own retail developments and services. David Wenman moved into premises close to the M40 at Barford last September, and Keep Able are now well established at Brierley Hill, both with large showrooms. Ashley Healthcare has showrooms at Hay Mills in Birmingham, but offers free home demonstrations on new and used mobility products.

Ever stronger and lighter

For sports-loving and fitness-conscious wheelchair users, there is an ever increasing variety of custom-made, high performance chairs.

Using the latest materials and technology to give stronger and lighter "wheels", they are designed for specific sports. As looks and manoeuvrability improve too, they are being used for work and general mobility.

My eye was drawn to the sheer elegance of the Cyclone PC Ti325 on the CJS Custom stand. £1,475. Made in aerospace -tested titanium alloy, this ultra-sports model weighs a mere 14lb, carries a life-time guarantee on the frame, and is built to withstand the rigours of wheelchair rugby. CJS Custom supplies sports equipment of all sorts. Tel: (0244) 310089.

The brilliant colour scheme of the Quickie Shadow 3D on the Gerald Simonds stand gave all the appearance of an accessory for designer sports wear. But it has the Shadow pedigree, with years of development in the USA behind it. Of particular interest to competitive wheelchair tennis players. £1,795. Tel: (0296) 436557.

For the growing army of wheelchair sports enthusiasts, there is a new multi-gym for working out at home. CJS Custom showed the Versatrainer for the first time in the UK. In the States it has collected a string of devotees over the last five years - sportsmen and women, coaches, physios and so on. Because it uses "power rods" rather than weights, resistance is fully progressive and muscles are exercised through the whole range of movement. Most important for wheelchair users, you can exercise in your own chair without

M I D L A N D S '94 naidex '94

DN's experts report from Birmingham



Four-year work-out: Melissa Espinoza keeps fit on the Versatrainer in Canada

assistance from a non-disabled person. £1,500.

From Gerald Simonds come some dramatic improvements in wheelchair comfort. The latest Swede chairs do not look

especially different, but the seat can be raked back for improved balance and posture. At the top of the range, the upholstery is adjustable, allowing the seat to fit snugly round the user's

lower back. Basic models in 16in or 18in are under £800.

The Cirrus Comfort was also on the stand, a highly adjustable, new wheelchair with a seat which can be tilted or

reclined for rest, or adjusted to allow the user to participate in the world around. Especially valuable for people who might otherwise spend most of their time in bed or have to take bed-rest during the day. £1,810.

Sapphire Seating Systems from Ariadne (Malvern) replaces the conventional flat seat with a deep saddle and wrap-around back cushions, which support hips and upper body. The shape of the seat promotes an upright posture, so that people who are subject to spinal spasm do not slowly sink through their waist straps, out of sight.

Developed by the charity ARCOS, the seating comes in three sizes and indoor or outdoor models. John Mitton, the engineer who worked on the prototype with Kay Coombes and Pauline Batty, said he was interested in developing an add-on power unit which will give owners independent mobility. From £1,150. Tel: (0684) 562561.

Powering along

Among power chairs and scooters, the PowerTec F50 from Sunrise Medical (exhibited by Ashley Healthcare) has a new tilt facility which allows the rake of the seat to be adjusted for comfort and security. Attractive, but expensive, at £3,145 (Riccaro upholstery £600 extra). Tel: (0384) 480480.

The new Meyra Genius on the David Wenman stand has much improved lines, but gives the same impression of quality and reliability for which Meyra is known. It features push-button adjustability to footrest and seat and a pneumatic suspension system which

Continued on page 22

CARCHAIR IN ACTION

Constables understand the needs of the wheelchair user...which is not surprising when you consider our pedigree... with over twelve years' first-hand experience of the mobility market.

The Carchair is a wheelchair system which becomes the front passenger or driver's seat of a standard production motor car.

Naturally, this eliminates the need to transfer from wheelchair to car seat and avoids the purchase of a 'special' vehicle.

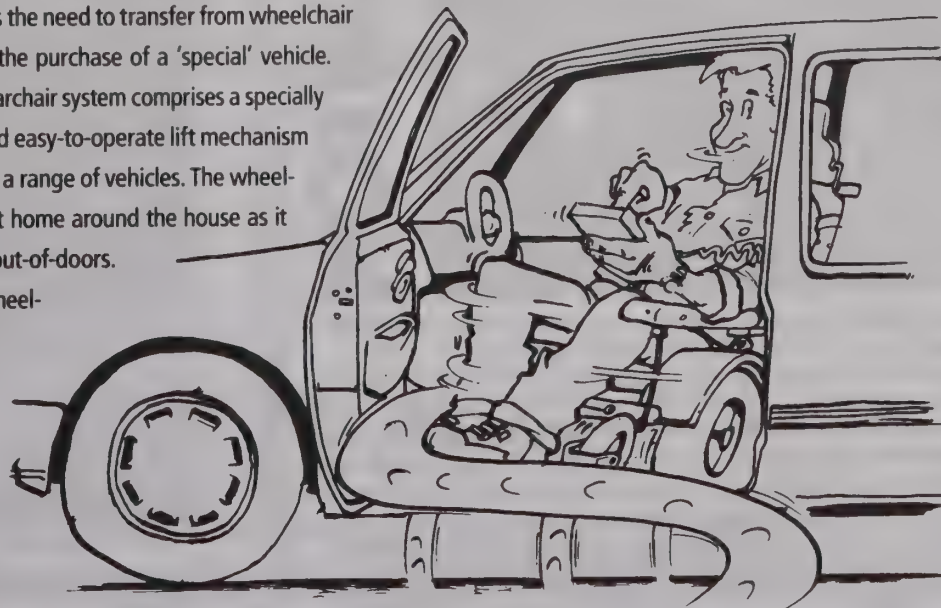
As a complete unit the Carchair system comprises a specially designed wheelchair and easy-to-operate lift mechanism which can be fitted into a range of vehicles. The wheelchair itself is as much at home around the house as it is in the family car or out-of-doors.

Quite simply, no other wheelchair is so adaptable.



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Take a comfortable nap in the Cirrus, or get around

Mobility*Continued from page 21*

can be matched to the weight of any driver. From £7,250. (After sales service aims to be first class.) Tel: (0926) 624432.

Coloured walking sticks

I was delighted to see that Coopers, makers of smart looking walking-sticks and more functional, aluminium crutches, has moved into colours for the European market. Will they soon be available here, please?

Also for long-term users, Coopers has developed a new hand grip which can be moulded precisely to the user's hand, increasing the pressure-bearing area. Ergo tape is a plastic material which hardens when heated - a tremendous advance on the foam rubber and elastoplast cushions so loved by physio departments. But how quickly will it find

itself in regular use? Coopers Healthcare, tel: (0428) 682251.

Lifts and hoists

Handlift, from Grorud Lifts, is one of the most attractive heavy-duty, straight-flight plat-



form lifts I have seen. Usable inside or out, it is very simple to operate and has some excellent safety features. Of interest to architects, nursing homes, schools and private houses. £8,000. Tel: (0207) 590149.

A simple hoist from D G Hodge and Son should take all the back strain out of loading and unloading a wheelchair from the boot of the car. From £355. Tel: (0784) 483580.

Not new, but ...

Alone in its class, Sportster from S A E Afikim, distributed by David Wenman, is more of a powered tricycle than a scooter, extremely stable, fast (8mph) and long ranging - up to 40 miles per charge is claimed. From £2,985.

Also well worth a mention is the Seatcase from Gerald Simonds, a light-weight, folding wheelchair which collapses to briefcase size, complete with carrying handle. Only 15in wide and weighing 18lb, this is a real travelling chair. £440. Tel: (0296) 436557.

Rob Jackson is director of the Derbyshire Centre for Integrated Living.

"A real travelling chair": the Seatcase, left and below, can be used on boats, planes, anywhere you want to go, yet folds down to briefcase size when not in use.



A Travelling Companion for Leicester's Trevor Orton?

MICROTECH**Rival exhibition knocks Naidex numbers, but what was there was exciting**

by John McFarlane

Compared to previous years - even at regional Naidex - the number of technology exhibitors was well down. This may be due to an overall trend in the technology business, but more probably it was because a rival exhibition was being held a few miles away, which fragmented both shows. Few of us could get to both.

Nevertheless, the quality at Naidex was high and one or two products were exciting.

Hugh Steeper revealed the Fox environmental control system which works domestic services, such as tv, video and curtains, by infra-red. Soon to be available through the

Department of Health (DoH), there are no prices yet. Tel: 081-788 8165.

In the same vein, the Travelling Companion from Possum Controls, which has DoH approval, controls computers, mouse, etc, and has a real recorded speech facility. £950 for the basic unit. Tel: (0296) 81591.

Toby Churchill has launched the SL35 Lightwriter, which is claimed to be the smallest communication device in the world and, significantly, the

Special July offer for DN readers

TouchWindow, which changes a standard computer screen into one with touch capabilities in five minutes with no complicated wiring or software, could be yours for £269 (£100 less than the recommended retail price of £369). Contact Capital Electronic Developments, tel: 081-573 3681.

cheapest. It uses the DECtalk speech synthesiser used by Stephen Hawking in the British Telecom *Keep Talking* tv advert. A useful feature: it contains the voices of four women, four men and a child. From £782. Tel: (0223) 316117.

Alphavision, supplier of technology for visually impaired people, had plenty of close circuit televisions on its stand. Among them were the portable Braille computer, the Notex 486, Braille attachments for standard desktop keyboards (£7,900) and Windots - a software package which allows users to access standard Windows packages through the Braillex-2D screen display. £1,795. Tel: (0494) 530555.

For those with manual dexterity problems, the TouchWindow should prove a boon, as well as a relatively inexpensive way to change a standard computer screen into one with touch capabilities. It can be installed in five minutes by placing it under the ordinary screen - no complicated wiring or software. Capital Electronic Developments, which is marketing the TouchWindow, is making a special offer in July to DN readers, plus VAT, where applicable (see box, above).

*Continued on page 24***Our premier powered wheelchair!****NEWTON***Royale***NEWTON**

The 'Royale' is a new addition to the Newton range of powered wheelchairs. The compact and easily foldable design of the wheelchair is equally at home indoors and with 200mm castors, rear wheel traction and kerbclimber, outdoors. The Royale's high manoeuvrability, smooth comfortable ride and high specification sets a new standard in its class. Additional seating options are available to upgrade this wheelchair to even higher standards.

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CAREHOUSE

DN7/94

A step in the right direction

by Jane Joester

I enjoyed my visit to Naidex at the NEC far more than my last trip to Wembley. There were fewer exhibitors, but that made it easier to see what was there, and there was some interesting products.

The newly-formed paediatric division of Kirton Healthcare had its whole range on show.

I liked the **Quorn Chair**, which is an adjustable, prone-angle chair giving a variety of forward and backward tilt, and easily accessible prone sitting. There is seat height, depth and back angle adjustment, and the chair provides anterior/side support, knee blocks and foot sandles. £425 to £499.

Support for all

The **Euro Chair**, also from Kirton, has supports for head, arms, sides, hips and feet. It also has knee blocks and a tray. A useful feature for home use is the rotating, lockable seat with some height adjustment, which will help a child to reach the dining table. In three sizes. £426 to £525. Tel: (0440) 705352.

The **Arrow Walker**, developed by the Bio-engineering Centre in Edinburgh, is now available from Theraplay. Although there

are several new walking aids on the market similar in design, this one looks particularly easy to manoeuvre with its directional castors and a range of posture control adjustment.

The "arrow" design allows the child to get closer to furniture, while the posture control gives mobility in the upright position, allowing hands to be free. "Scissoring" is prevented and there are adjustments to allow forward leaning.

The walker can be packed flat and it comes in two sizes up to 12 years, (a larger size is in the pipeline). £480 to £595. Tel: (0294) 558658.

CHILDREN

G&S Smirthwaite has added the **Heathfield Desk** to its range of wooden furniture. The desk is height-adjustable and the lid can be raised and locked at any angle. Available in two sizes up to adult. £168 and £198. Tel: (0626) 835552.

The **Rompa stand** always attracts lots of visitors who enjoy playing with the products.

This is the first place I would look to find stimulating and educational toys, particularly for a child with multiple disabilities. There was a huge range of toys, including

specialist balls (tactile, scented, slow motion etc), developmental toys for those with a visual impairment, and larger play equipment. Tel: (0246) 211777.

Getting nifty with a buggy

Newton Products had the "Nifty" on display. Although the prototype was at Wembley, it is now in full production as a "fun", electrically-propelled buggy for two to seven-year-olds. This bright red vehicle is worlds away from the clinical "electric chair". It will climb small thresholds, controlled by a joystick with two speeds and a "soft start". £1,300 to £1,400. Tel: 021-783 6081.

Rifton Products has introduced the **Gait Trainers** to improve its range of walking aids for the MOVE (Mobility Opportunities Via Education) programme. They come in three sizes (from 12-months-old to adult), and are designed to give total support where necessary.

It is good to see Rifton's range still catering for young adults, a group for which it is often difficult to find appropriate equipment. £465 to £585. Tel: (0580) 880626.

Jane Joester is therapy co-ordinator at The Spastics Society's Meldreth Manor School.



Look at me mum: Joe Loverock, aged two, from Cannock, tries out Theraplay's new Arrow Walker

STEVE BURDEN/POST STUDIOS PHOTOGRAPHY



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IN THE HOME

Where were the small gadgets that make life a bit easier?

by Alicia O'Brien

Midlands Naidex seemed smaller and very crowded. It was a pity the gangways weren't wide enough to allow wheelchairs to pass each other.

Wheelchairs and mobility items seemed to dominate the exhibition and there were fewer of those small, useful gadgets to help with everyday activities.

Baths featured prominently, aimed at the luxury end of the market. If you have over £1,500 to spend, you can have a bath installed with an integral hydraulically-operated bath seat to help you get in and out. Very attractive, with the emphasis on independence, but beyond the reach of most of us.

Have a comfortable bath

The Bath Bubble is an exciting idea and easier on the pocket too. Designed by a son

for his elderly father, it is simple, safe, and really lowers you to the bottom of the bath so that you can lie back and enjoy a long soak. Consisting of a motor blower, a 3.5m air hose with operating valve and a bubble cushion attached to a bath mat, the Bath Bubble weighs only 7kgs and is easily carried around. £365. T S Ability, tel: 081-761 1110 for a free demonstration.

If you find it hard to dry yourself after a shower, Easidry may help. It envelopes you in a curtain of warm air for a few minutes, leaving you dry, warm and smooth - and no wet towels. It fits neatly into most bathing areas or shower cubicles. £275 plus £50 for installation. Apreshower, tel: 061-761 3131 for a demonstration.

Cooking and consuming

First time exhibitors at Naidex, Cane and Able, had attractive cutlery, crockery, cooking and household equipment from the USA that can be used by all the family.

There was a helping hand with a difference: instead of the usual jaw-like gripper, it had a pad with a sticky substance not unlike Dycem that could pick up a piece of paper



Bubbling up: Mrs Pat James from Gwent with Tina Stevens
STEVE BURDEN/POST STUDIOS PHOTOGRAPHIC

or a 1lb tin of soup. The telescopic arm made it very portable. £19.95. Tel: (0433) 631170.

Sumed International (UK) launched Indespense, a new model of the portable drinks

dispenser for people unable to drink unaided. It dispenses hot or cold drinks from all sorts of containers and comes with a one litre container. £275. Free home trial. Tel: (0295) 270499.



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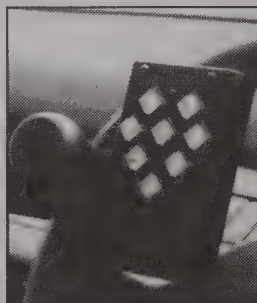
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DN7/94

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The **Fitness Ball**, made of plastic or leather attached to strong elastic, is tied round your waist. Throw the ball in any direction and it always bounces back to be caught. Good for hand/eye co-ordination. £15 plus £2.50 p&p from A N Sport, tel: 071-639 2846.

Discounts on electrical goods

Fish Insurance Group, which has developed all sorts of insurance and investment schemes for disabled people, has launched **Disability Direct**, an affinity discount purchasing group that supplies disabled clients with new, leading-brand, electrical equipment, such as tvs, microwaves, fridges and freezers. You can, apparently, save at least 20 per cent on high street prices and the goods will be delivered to your door. Tel: (0772) 724442.

Mail order

For people who enjoy leafing through catalogues and find mail order more convenient than traipsing around the shops, here are some companies that do mail order: **Keep Able**, tel: (0933) 679426; **Chester-care**, tel: (0623) 757955 (over 750 items); **JMC Rehab**, freecall (0500) 221222; and **Cane and Able**, tel (0433) 631170.

Alicia O'Brien, an occupational therapist, is assistant team manager, Birmingham Social Services.

Microtech

Continued from page 22

British Telecom had its stand as usual, with a range of products reflecting the changing world of telecommunications. A crowd puller was the **Videophone**, the ultimate in one-upmanship - as long as someone else has one too. Expensive (£399), but likely to drop in price.

Less noticeable, but of great interest, was the new range of **cordless phones**. Not only slimmer and lighter, but easier to handle because they are ergonomically-shaped and the dial buttons give good tactile response. From £69.99. Tel: (0800) 800 150.

New Image Systems showed the **Homecall** which can summon help when you are not near a phone. It has several useful features which give security and comfort to the user and the carer.

The unit sits under the telephone and is activated by a small transmitter worn as a pendant or wrist strap. Push the button in an emergency and you can alert neighbours or family. Homecall will phone up to six pre-programmed numbers to summon help, giving a message of up to 30 seconds in the user's voice. £199.95 plus replacement battery every 12 months. Installation takes less than five minutes. Tel: (0983) 200300.

John McFarlane is marketing manager of Possum Controls and a trustee of the Computability Centre.

WHAT'S ON

NACTON '94, a conference for people in further education working with students with physical disabilities on 7 July in London. £95 Details from David Gilbert, The Spastics Society, tel: (0782) 836911.

Rights Now, a rally on 9 July in Trafalgar Square, London. Details from Disability Awareness in Action, tel: 071-834 0477.

Jewish Disabled Women's Movement, a meeting on 10 July in St John's Wood, London. Contact Simone Aspis, tel: 081-459 5717.

Warrington Disability Awareness Day, an information day for everyone on 24 July in Warrington. Contact Dave Thompson, Warrington Information Group for the Disabled, tel: (0295) 240064.

Quality Services in the Year of the Family, a conference for professionals working with deaf people on 28-29 July at Southampton University. £88.13 for one day, £152.75 for two. Contact The Conference Office, The National Deaf Children's Society, tel: (0489) 87747.

Baptist Phab Week, an activity week for able bodied and disabled young people, 30 July-6 August in Llandudno. £75. Details from Henry Gibbon, tel: 021-373 0191.

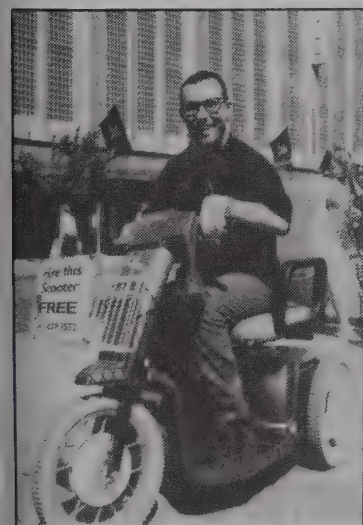
Deaf/Blind Communication, a course for professionals on 5-8 August in Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire. Details from Brian Jones, Communication Works, tel: (0494) 431664.

Disabled People in Employment, a course for disabled adults of Greater Manchester in August. Free. Booking forms (print, large print, braille or tape, from Linda Marsh, Greater Manchester Coalition of Disabled People, tel: 051-273 5223.

Communication without Speech: An Overview of Current Techniques and Technology, a study day for professionals on 30 August in Glasgow. Fee £15-£30. Details from Janet Scott, tel: 041-649 4545 ext. 5579.

INFO

Out of Work and Cash Help While Working are videos, in sign language, explaining benefits for deaf people. Free, from Benefits Agency Distribution and Storage Centre, Manchester Road, Heywood, Lancashire OL10 2PZ.



Shopmobility Manchester and Millercare, supplier of disability equipment, have embarked on an innovative partnership. The Manchester-based supplier has given Shopmobility space in its 3,500 sq ft showroom and is paying heating and lighting bills. The scheme offers a free scooter service for anyone with mobility problems. Contact Mark Todd, (above), Access Officer, tel: 061-839 2552.

Central Post-Stroke Pain is an advice leaflet for people who

have had a stroke. Free, with a A5 SAE from The Stroke Association, CHSA House, Whitecross Street, London EC1Y 8JJ.

Conundrum is the first puzzle magazine in braille. Published monthly, it will include crosswords, anagrams and brain-teasers. 38p per issue from the Royal National Institute for the Blind Customer Services, tel: (0345) 023153.

101 Practical Hints is a booklet of handy tips, put together by Radio 4's *In Touch* programme. It is available in large print, tape and braille. £1.95 (cheques should be payable to BSS), from 101 Practical Hints, PO Box 7, London W3 6XJ.

Gold Standards is a guide for professionals caring for elderly people. It covers forty core areas including abuse, ethics, nutrition and quality of care. £5 from Services Development Unit, Age Concern England, Astral House, 1268 London Road, London SW16 4ER.

Your Rights to Housing and Support is a guide for anyone who needs help with housing as a result of old age or disability. £6, from Spinal Injuries Association, Newpoint House, 76 St James's Lane, London N10 3DF, tel: 081-444 2121.

Disability Action, based in Northern Ireland (DN, June) has a telephone information service for disabled people, weekdays 2pm-5pm. Tel: (0232) 491011.

If you would like a mention in *DN's Look out for column* (p19) or in *What's on*, please let us know six weeks in advance. Write to the Editor, *Disability Now*, address page 2.

HELP!

Anyone got a spare room? RSI co-ordinator, running unfunded London support group, is desperate for office space (preferably in North London) with filing cabinets/shelves. Contact the Co-ordinator, RSI Group, c/o 74 Park House, Seven Sisters Road, London N4 2LS.

To place an item in our Help column, send a £5 cheque made payable to *Disability Now*. This is to help cover our costs.

TENDER FOR SUPPLY OF SPECIAL AIDS

The Employment Service (ES) is an executive agency responsible for running the national network of over 1300 Jobcentres. The ES provides specialist services for people with disabilities through its Placing, Assessment and Counselling Teams (PACTs) and Ability Development Centres (ADCs).

One aspect of this specialist advice and guidance involves the provision of special aids and equipment to help people with disabilities retain or seek employment.

The ES is seeking to let a two year contract for the supply, maintenance and user training associated with the following three types of special aid:

- closed circuit television systems (CCTVs);
- large computer monitors;
- speech synthesisers with screen reading software.

The successful tenderer(s) may be required to fulfil orders on behalf of the PACT network throughout England, Scotland and Wales.

Interested companies should apply for the tender documents by telephone or minicom, quoting reference 110019, to:

Simon Wood,
The Employment Service,
Purchasing and Contracts Branch,
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Mayfield Court, 56 West Street,
Sheffield S1 4EP.
Telephone: (0742) 595846
Minicom (0742) 596117

All completed tenders should be received at the above address no later than noon, Monday 25 July 1994.



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Share Your Problems

Double trouble, if you choose the wrong confidante



Ann Dambrough, DN, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ

Who is on my side? We all need people who are for us. Sometimes they seem pretty thin on the ground. Most recently, we disabled people have felt let down by the way Minister for Disabled People, Nicholas Scott, opposed the Civil Rights Bill.

But readers who are facing personal loneliness and isolation may feel that is the least of their problems. As one reader remarked in a recent letter, "the main issue for me is the need to be wanted and loved, and to experience the joy of a mutually satisfying sexual relationship".

Life is never problem-free, but there are periods in all our lives when difficulties seem insuperable. It is at such times that we turn to others for support. Friends may often be able to help us, but sometimes we need professional counsellors to help us put our confused and tangled emotions into perspective.

The problem then is how do we choose a counsellor that is right for us? One black reader

who wrote to me felt that his white counsellor did not understand his needs enough because she lacked cultural sensitivity.

So choose your counsellor carefully. It would be wise to ensure that anyone to whom you are going to entrust your innermost thoughts has received a thorough training and is registered with the British Association of Counsellors.

For members of ethnic minority communities, there is a multi-cultural organisation called Nassiyat which can recommend suitable counsellors to meet your needs. The Association of Black Counsellors will also provide information about local black counsellors.

Above all, don't forget the thorny problem of fees (it's no good piling up money worries on top of everything else). And don't expect too much from a counsellor: they don't usually offer advice or counsel in the strict sense of the word; they listen and aim to encourage you to sort out your problems for yourself, having gained a

better understanding of your situation.

If it is advice and information you need, then you will probably be better off going to your local Citizens' Advice Bureau, which will also have information on other agencies that can help.

I would be interested to hear about other readers' experiences. As a friend said to me years ago, "A trouble shared is a trouble doubled if you choose the wrong confidante".

Personal preferences

The issue that some men prefer female amputees and those who wear calipers seems set to run and run. You may remember that in my May column, I quoted Fiona who had described her distress upon discovering that the man with whom she was having a relationship was, in fact, interested only in her amputation and not in her as a person at all. She said: "I find men are very devious in hiding their fetishes. We disabled women must be careful."

In discussing this issue, I mentioned Overground, a support group for people attracted to others who are "physically unusual". As a result, it seems, the group's activities were mentioned in the BBC's *From the Edge*. A second programme is to go out on 12 July at 11.15pm.

The founder of Overground, James (not his real name), has written to me to express his horror over Fiona's experience.

"Everything that we stand for is betrayed by the behaviour of the men Fiona wrote about. It is no wonder

that disabled women do not trust us. All I can say in our defence is that we are not all like that. Overground reiterates until I am bored with writing it: you can't expect a loving relationship to develop if the only reason it holds together is that one person finds a part of the other's body sexy. But if people share all the things necessary for a long-term

bowl along the open road.

Severe disability is usually no bar to driving. Only a small minority of disabled people who would like to drive are unable to do so because of the nature of their disability.

So I was very sad to hear from Marjorie (not her real name) whose husband seems to have lost all will to live as a result of becoming disabled.

"The only love and pleasure Tom ever got from life was cars and driving. He believes his life is finished. I am desperately trying to keep his spirits up. It is hard as we are stuck indoors. He won't go out in the wheelchair. He won't face people."

Marjorie had suggested to him that somehow they should try and get a car, but he told her not to be stupid. The sadness is that having been able-bodied for most of his life, he now seems to be suffering from his perception of society's prejudices. He is ashamed to be seen in a wheelchair and he cannot believe that a disabled man could drive.

I have heard no more from Marjorie, but I hope they were able to follow up on some of my suggestions, including that of buying a car through Motability. I also thought Tom might enjoy the company of other disabled drivers and that joining a local group would give him a new lease of life.

Make the most of the sunshine and don't forget to write to me about problems, joys and any issues which we can share with other readers.

A UNIQUE SERVICE!

The DN telephone counsellor, Lin Berwick, is a psycho-therapeutic counsellor, fully accredited Methodist local preacher, and qualified homeopath.

Disabled herself, she can give other disabled people and their carers advice and support on personal and spiritual problems.

Talk to her on Monday afternoons, 1pm-5pm and Thursdays 6pm-10pm. Her telephone number is (0708) 477582. DN's helpline is sponsored by The Wellcome Foundation Limited.

relationship: tastes, attitudes, feelings, mutual tenderness, and if she has a stump, and he feels that it makes her especially beautiful and sexy, she might even find his feelings some small compensation for the disaster of the amputation.

"In conclusion, I have to state that it is as depressing for me to have my feelings of tenderness and attraction called 'fetishes' as it would be for Fiona if people were to refer to her as a 'cripple'."

On the open road

My colleague on DN, David Griffiths, paints delightful pictures of the wonders of modern cars and the destinations we can get to in them. Through his experience of running the Mobility Information Service, an assessment and motoring information service near Shrewsbury, he has helped thousands of disabled people to get behind the wheel and

British Association of Counsellors, 1 Regent Place, Rugby, Warwickshire CV21 2PJ, tel: (0788) 550899.
Nassiyat, tel: 071-263 4130.
Association of Black Counsellors, c/o Ms S Nicholas, 7 Mead Close, Harrow Weald, Middlesex HA3 5JN.
Mobility Information Service, Unit 2a, Atcham Estate, Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY4 4UG, tel: (0743) 761889.
Disabled Drivers' Association, Ashwellthorpe, Norwich NR16 1EX, tel: (0508) 489449.
Disabled Drivers' Motor Club, Cottingham Way, Thrapston, Northamptonshire NN14 4PL, tel: (0832) 734724.
Overground, PO Box 2444, Ardleigh, Colchester CO7 7SF.

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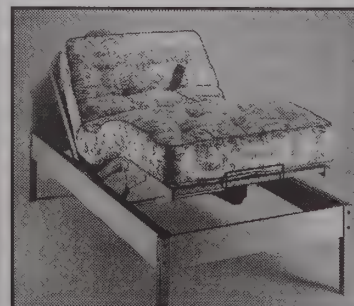
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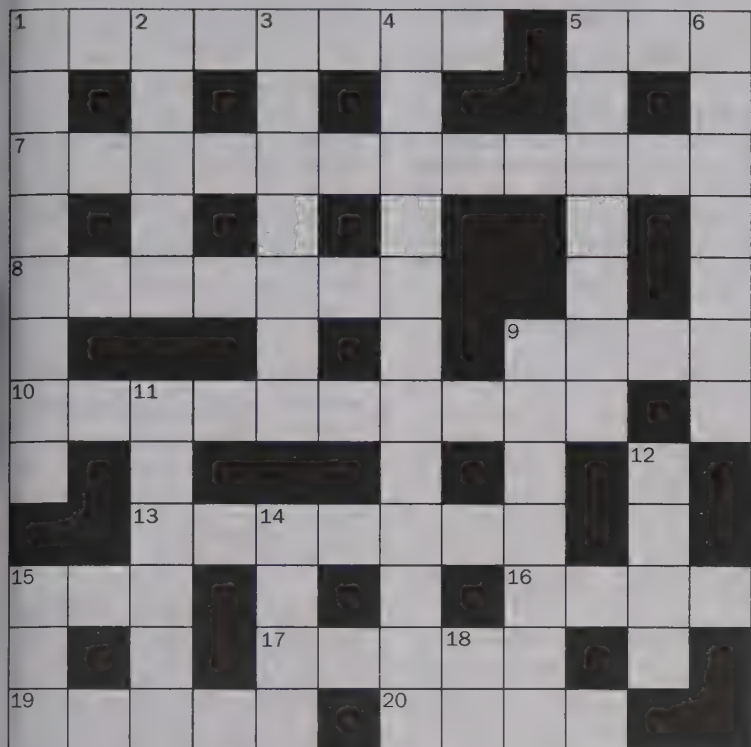
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DN's crossword

Answers page 31

COMPILED BY REBECCA REYNOLDS



ACROSS

1. System for drawing away liquid (8)
5. Wicked (3)
7. Literary liquid food? (8,4)
8. Highest mountain (7)
9. Shout loudly (4)
10. In the end (10)
13. System of reading for blind people (7)
15. Nothing in football (3)
16. Opposite of pleasure (4)
17. Escape to get married (5)
19. Copy (5)
20. See 4 down

DOWN

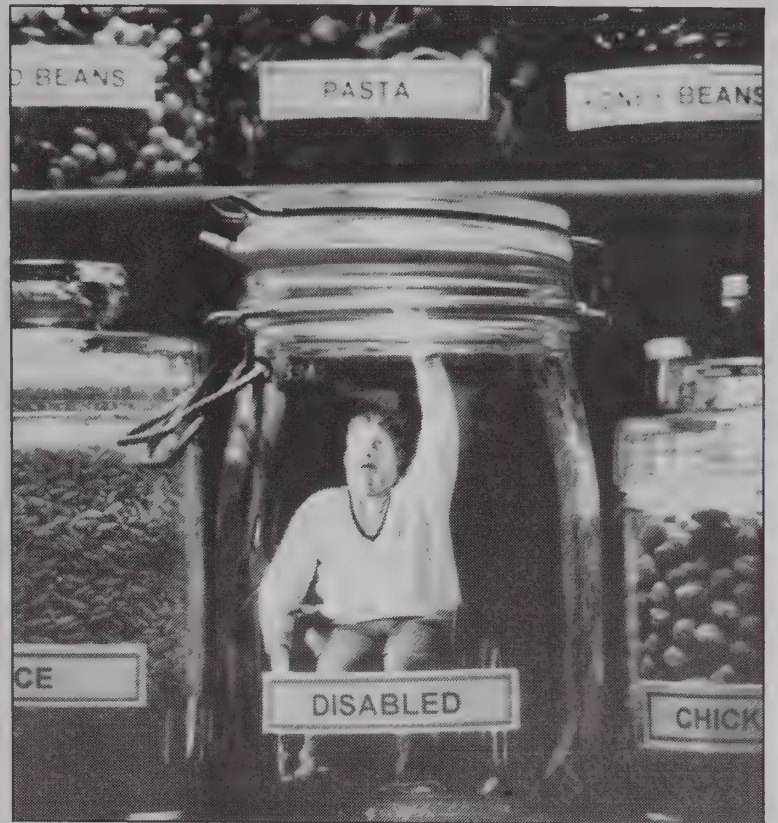
1. Disability (8)
2. More than enough (5)
3. Most tidy (7)
4. Jerry Lee Lewis song (5,5,2,4)
5. Rob lady (anag)
6. and 15. down False name taken by writer (3,2,5)
9. Part of railway track (7)
11. Symbol (6)
12. Journey (4)
14. - Guinness, actor (4)
15. See 6 down
18. Maths symbol (2)

Win a £10 prize

Create-a-caption

This stunning image from Christopher Burgess is part of this year's South Bank photo show.* What might the man in the jar be muttering? Is he praising the Government's new housing policy for disabled people? Answers please by 14 July.

22 June-20 July, Royal Festival Hall Galleries, London.



June winner

John Dew of Welwyn Garden City for "Tie me Shire horse down, boy ..."



...NEWS QUIZ...

Answers page 31

1. How many parliamentary by-elections were held on 9 June?
2. Who were "the coven"?
3. Which American was honoured by Oxford University?
4. Who won the Derby?
5. How old was ex-crooner Pat Boone?
6. What proportion of British people were found to have allergies?
7. In which city will Britain's first state-funded Muslim school open?
8. Which writer returned to Russia after 20 years in exile?
9. Who had a go at beggars?
10. The head of which American religious organisation died?

The NISSAN & RENAULT



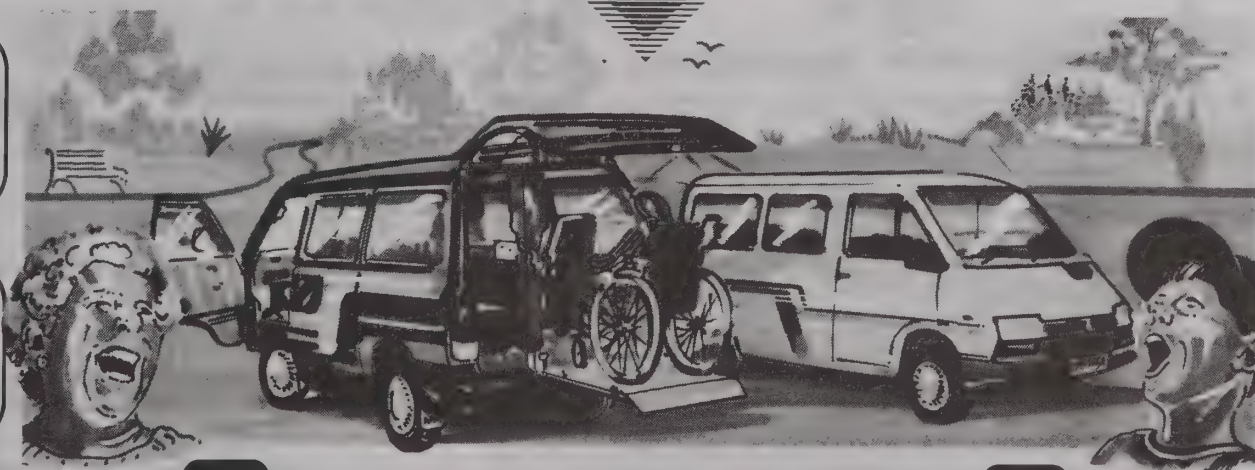
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LARK TRIUMPH 3 wheel scooter, swivel seat, dial speed limiter, anti-tipping stabiliser, new batteries, automatic battery charger, shopping basket, £850 ono. Tel: 081-567 1162.

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SPRINT ELECTRIC wheelchair and battery charger, two-years-old, £900 ono. Also Suntech wheelchair, two-years-old, £150 ono. Both chairs are in excellent condition, seldom used. Tel: 021-449 9422.

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POIRIER GLOBE roller manual wheelchair, hardly used. Offers? Contact Mr H Stone, Flat 17, Buscombe Gardens, Hucclecote, Gloucester GL3 3QG, tel: (0452) 619704/652768.

SEAT TERRA, G reg, 9,500 miles, wheelchair adapted, £4,000 ono. Tel: (0475) 728486.

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LARK 4, four wheel scooter with lights, charger etc. Bought 1993, hardly used, £1,600. Tel: 081-348 9012.

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ELSWICK ENVOY, excellent condition, MOT, 15,000 miles, offers invited, infra-red nine way. Tel: 081-743 5140.

RENAULT EXTRA FREEDOM, F reg, 14 seats, five rear access with ramp and lowering suspension for wheelchairs and clamps. Only 17,500 miles, taxed and tested, vgc, £6,500 ono. Tel: (0242) 527928.

SCOOTER STORE, power-operated, waterproof, secure, lockable steel housing for scooter, wheelchair, etc. Tel: 081-348 9012 North London.

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FORD CHAIRMAN ESCORT, 28,000 miles, wheelchair transporter with lowering body. Cost £17,000 new, will accept £6,500. Tel: (0784) 255188.

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SUNGIFT 200 electric scooter, six-months-old, never used, still under makers warranty. £2,725 new, will accept £2,000 ono. Tel: 071-821 9343.

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Self-catering cottage adapted for wheelchair visitors. Newly converted barn on high moorland, between Pateley Bridge and Grassington. Beautiful views. Sleeps up to 5. Comfortable, well-equipped. Children, dogs welcome.
Phone: (0423) 711747.

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Character cottage. Sleeps 8 + cot. Luxury single en-suite ground floor bedroom for wheelchair user with electrically operated bed, wheelchair shower, toilet with rail and remote control colour TV. 3 further bedrooms, 2 lounges, 2 bathrooms. No pets/smokers. Tel: (0205) 367111.

Llandeilo, West Wales. 3 comfortable well equipped cottages specially for disabled people and their families. Overlooked by 12th century castle and over-run by deer. Each cottage sleeps 4. Central heating, CTV, laundry, fitness room. Large orchard and a very warm welcome. Open all year, short breaks available. Tel: Catherine McLoughlin (0558) 823059 for brochure.

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"Afterwards" is a new voluntary organisation in London offering support, counselling and information to people who have suddenly become disabled. It currently has one full-time Development Director.

We now wish to expand by appointing someone to run the administrative and office systems. We need someone experienced in setting up and maintaining office systems - with computer literacy and basic bookkeeping skills. You will need to be able to respond sensitively and effectively to a variety of people, in person or by phone, and sometimes in distress. Some understanding of the effects of sudden disability and/or willingness to learn would be important.

In return we can offer a friendly and supportive environment and a comfortable office within the premises of the Disabled Living Foundation.

The contract is for one year in the first instance, with a possibility of extension. The salary will be £10,000 p.a. for 25 hours per week - hours by arrangement.

To apply please write for an application pack to "Afterwards", 380-384 Harrow Rd, London W9 2HU. Closing date is 22nd July.

"Afterwards" promotes Equity as a guiding principle in its work, and will aim to enhance opportunities for people with disabilities, and to encourage the involvement of people from a range of personal and social backgrounds, status and personal choices in lifestyle, as users and workers.

SOUTHWARK CONSORTIUM SERVICE BROKER

£19,581 - £22,656

Following a highly successful 18 month pilot project Southwark Consortium is expanding service brokerage to people with learning difficulties in Southwark.

You will need previous experience of working with people with disabilities, to be a good communicator, assertive and diplomatic.

You will need the ability to work with and mediate between service users, parents and carers, purchasers and providers and bring with you a commitment to finding new and better ways of doing things. You will need to work closely and in a complimentary manner with the two existing service brokers who have been part of the pilot project from the onset.

Applications from people wanting to work on a full, part time or job share basis will be considered.

People with disabilities and people from black and ethnic minorities are under represented at this level among the work force and applications from these groups are particularly welcome.

The closing date is: 11th July 1994 and the interview date is the 18th July 1994.

For an application pack contact Southwark Consortium, 27 Barry Road, London SE22 0HX. Tel: 081 299 4933 (ansaphone).

P H O E N I X

Phoenix Arts is Leicester's Arts Centre with a varied programme of events.
We are looking for an experienced

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For full details and an application form please contact: The Director, Phoenix Arts, 11 Newarke St., Leicester LE1 5SS or Tel: (0533) 555627

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Phoenix Arts is an Equal Opportunities Employer

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DETACHED BUNGALOW, Larkhall, near Glasgow. Double glazed, gas central heating, two double bedrooms, large lounge and dining room, newly fitted kitchen units, bathroom fitted with shower unit, off-street parking, large garage, enclosed garden with patio area suitable for wheelchair user, £54,500. Tel: (0536) 414302 (eves).

DETACHED BUNGALOW, 12-years-old, built for wheelchair user. Two double bedrooms, lounge, dining room/kitchen, bathroom, extra toilet, double garage, attractive garden with pond, £79,950 ono. Tel: (0505) 872483 Kilmacolm, 15 minutes from Glasgow airport.

SCOTTISH BORDERS, large single storey cottage (no steps), five bedrooms, two bathrooms (one suitable for a wheelchair), landscaped stream-side garden. Presently run as B&B plus small plant nursery. Also one bedroom cottage adjacent, recently renovated. Quiet location, £160,000. Tel: (0896) 849518.

Disability Now is not responsible for claims made in the advertisements it prints and all readers are advised to check claims with the advertisers before relying on them.

RECRUITMENT

SHAD Hounslow

(Support & Housing Assistance for Disabled People)

DEVELOPMENT WORKER

£17,300 pa - 36 hours p.w.

SHAD Hounslow is a new charitable organisation catering for the needs of disabled adults who wish to live independently and to purchase and manage their own care.

The Development Worker will join an existing Support Worker to work with a Management Committee of Users to recruit, house and support up to ten Users and their helpers over the next three years.

Tasks will include negotiation with relevant authorities, outreach work and recruitment, planning, administration, financial control and developing SHAD Hounslow's management and funding structure according to need.

The successful applicant will have appropriate management and administrative experience, good communication skills, understanding of disability and a commitment to the ethos of independent living. SHAD Hounslow operate Equal Opportunities policies and positively encourage applications from disabled people. Appropriate facilities are provided.

Application forms - SHAD Hounslow, V.A.C. 12 School Road, Hounslow, TW3 1QZ. 081 577 3226 Ex.304

Closing Date for applications - Friday 5th August 1994

THE BRITISH COUNCIL OF ORGANISATIONS OF DISABLED PEOPLE

Development Co-ordinator

(£15,903 - £18,504) NJC Scale S01/2

BCODP is seeking a disabled person to implement its "Group" development strategy. The main task is to work with new and existing groups of disabled people providing support and training to ensure that the groups develop and remain viable. In the first year you will run a pilot study in the West Midlands and make recommendations to enable BCODP to launch a National Development Programme in 1995/96.

We are looking for a committed, self-motivated person who has a good basic foundation within the movement. You will be an effective communicator with analytical skills and management potential. BCODP anticipates that the person appointed would ultimately head the National Project and could lead a team of workers.

This is an exciting challenge for a disabled person who wants to be involved in the movement at the national level. The post is offered on an initial two year contract and is based in our Derbyshire office.

Further information (state if required in other formats) from BCODP, De Bradelei House, Chapel Street, Belper, Derbyshire, DE56 1AR. Tel: 0773 828182. Minicom: 0773 828195. Fax: 0773 829672.

Closing date for applications is Monday 1st August 1994.

BCODP is an equal opportunities employer.

City of Newcastle upon Tyne

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S DEPARTMENT

Disability Issues

Two New Posts

Policy Adviser (Disabilities) and Access Officer

Two part-time posts: either two postholders

18.5 hpw each; up to £10,891 p.a. each;

or, one person in both posts, up to £21,000 p.a.

Newcastle City Council wants to improve the support it gives to people with disabilities. The Council aims to raise the profile on disability issues with policy makers. It also wants to see changes to the physical environment to improve access for people with disabilities.

Two new posts have been created - Policy Adviser (Disabilities) and Access Officer. Each post is half time (18.5 hours per week), each paying up to £10,891 each per year.

The Policy Adviser will be involved in policy and practice. You will work with all Departments and Committees of the Council to help them improve the way they meet the needs of people with disabilities. The Access Officer will advise on physical arrangements which will improve access to services and jobs.

You can be considered for one or both posts. One person could carry out both posts. For each job, you will need to be able to present your ideas clearly to top management and senior Councillors. You will also need to be able to prepare concise written reports, be persuasive in difficult situations and be practical in your approach to problems.

Application forms and information packs are available from the Job Shop, Newcastle Personnel, Civic Centre, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 8QJ. Tel. (091) 232 8520. Ext. 5235.

The closing date for receiving applications is Monday 11th July, 1994.



Promoting Equal Opportunities

PERSONAL

For Personal ads please send a cheque or postal order for £3 payable to *Disability Now* with your ad. This is to help cover our costs.

To reply to a Personal indicate the Box Number and mark the envelope Private and Confidential. If you do not it will be opened. Send to DN, address on page 2

DISABLED LADY (43) would like to meet able bodied male for friendship. Likes going out and watching tv. Box No. 691.

RECENT AMPUTEE (above knee, John, middle-aged) seeks platonic friendship with an established amputee male or female (middle-aged or younger), to learn from their experience, and offer mutual support and encouragement. Interests include music and travel. Box No. 692.

MARK (38), sensitive, happy, gsoh, own home, cp but ambulant, well-travelled including Mongolia, fond of sport, countryside, seeks friendship with bright, warm lady (30+). Camberley based. Box No. 693.

MALE, slightly disabled, intelligent, mid-thirties, homeowner and humorous, looking to meet lady (25-35) for mutual companionship and affectionate relationship of the long-term kind. I love reading, animals, quizzes, tv and most things really. I am quite talkative, but a caring and sympathetic listener. Box No. 694.

REFORMED EVANGELICAL Christian man (believes the Bible is the true word of God), has severe athetoid cp, enjoys attending church, photography, country and western music and farm shows. Hates smoking, but drinks in moderation. I would like to meet reformed Evangelical Christian woman, about the same age, who has similar interests, for romance and a serious relationship. Box No. 695.

HI! I'm looking for helpers and club members of the Courige/Freewheelers Club (1972 to 1983) in the Dartford, Crayford, Bexleyheath and Sidcup areas. Let's get together and talk about old times. Box No. 696.

MIDLANDS MAN (30) disabled, therefore won't be standing to greet you, would like nothing better than to sit with a nice lady (25-35) on cold winter afternoons. Seeks genuine friendship and possible relationship. Photo appreciated. All replies answered. Box No. 697.

MALE, LATE 40s, has MS but ambulant. Interests include music, photography and motoring. Would like to meet caring lady with good sense of humour, who's able to laugh at life. Photo appreciated. Box No. 698.

DEAF MALE (28), normal speaker, honest, genuine and sincere, seeks deaf female (23-35) for friendship, maybe more. Northwest area/anywhere. Box No. 699.

TETRAPLEGIC WOMAN (31) seeks loving, independent paraplegic man (30-45) who needs a lasting relationship and own family (a challenge to be met). Box No. 700.

WERE YOU at Charlton Park School between 1967-1979? Would you like to talk about old times and catch up on each other's news? Box No. 701.

MY NAME IS MARK and I have cp. I have fair hair, blue eyes and I am partially sighted and use a wheelchair. Interests include listening to rock and pop music and going out to places of interest. I would like to contact an able bodied slim/medium build female who is a non-smoking car owner. Photos please. Box No. 702.

There is a short waiting list for Personal ads. Do not worry if your advert is not in immediately, it will probably appear next month.

RESEARCH/EMPOWERMENT WITH YOUNG DISABLED PEOPLE

The Integration Alliance is a national organisation of disabled people and allies, based in South London, campaigning for equality within the education system. We are looking for a person to carry out a **TWO YEAR ACTION/RESEARCH PROJECT** with disabled students aged between 14 and 25 years. The task is to find out what the users of both "integrated" and "segregated" education think and feel about their own education, and then to help interested young people to form a national network of individuals and groups. This network could become a **FORUM TO ADVISE POLICY MAKERS ON FUTURE SERVICES**. You must show that you can relate well to this age group, and fully understand self-advocacy, empowerment and the social model of disability. You must also be aware of other areas of discrimination such as sexism, racism and lesbian and gay rights. You will need to travel and to record your work.

This job will particularly suit a disabled person or a person with a learning difficulty as we will be able to offer full support and facilitation. Joint applications from people who wish to job-share will be considered.

Salary: up to £13,000. Flexible working hours.

Write or phone for application form to **The Integration Alliance, Unit 2, 70 South Lambeth Road, London SW8 1RL. Tel: 071-735 5277.**

Closing date: July 18th 1994.

ARTSLINE requires



ACCESS WORKER (2 days a week).

(6 months contract initially).

Salary: £3,215.52

To visit arts/entertainment venues in London to assess their accessibility for disabled people and to update access data accordingly.

To visit groups of disabled people in the London area and boroughs on behalf of the Publicity Officer once a month to publicise Artsline's work.

Application forms available from: The Director, Artsline, 54 Charlton Street, London NW1 1HS.

Please send a SAE A4 size envelope for application form and details. All forms to be returned by Monday 18 July 1994.

WE WISH TO APPOINT A DISABLED PERSON TO THIS POST.

Redbridge Disability Association PROJECT OFFICER

(£7,933 PA - 18 HOURS PER WEEK JOB SHARE)

If you have a disability or have a strong interest in helping to research and develop opportunities for disabled people in Redbridge why not apply for our Project Officer Post.

The post is job share and you will work 18 hours per week, arranged to fit in with the current postholder.

Redbridge Disability Association (ReDA) is the Key Voluntary Organisation for physical and sensory disability within the London Borough of Redbridge, and you will be responsible for developing and running projects within the borough for disabled people.

The position will initially be based at The Community Care Advice Centre, Aldbrough Road North, Newbury Park, Ilford, Essex IG2 7SR, but we will be moving to new premises in central Ilford later in the year.

Want to find out more? Then phone for an application pack on 081 503 8937 or write to the address above. If you would like to discuss the post ask to talk to Janet Bell, our Co-ordinator, or Clare Curtis, our Information Officer (minicom available).

Closing date for applications is Friday 22nd July 1994.

Information is available in Large Print, Braille or on tape on request.

ReDA is working to become an equal opportunities employer and welcomes applications from all sections of the community.



INDEPENDENT PEOPLE (IPs) CHILDREN ACT COMPLAINTS

The London Boroughs of Harrow and Barnet are seeking locally-based IPs for occasional work and are advertising in this publication to ensure we recruit from all parts of the community. IPs are not employees or advocates but provide a valuable independent view about formal complaints. They are paid £15 per hour for work done. Experience of working in or with a local authority Children/Families Service, or ability to demonstrate a good understanding of the range and structure of its services and the context in which they are provided, a working knowledge of Children Act 89 and availability at short notice are just some of the requirements. For more info, please contact:

Alex Steward
LB Harrow
081 424 1578

Sheena Prescott
LB Barnet
081 446 8511 ext 4809

DISABILITY ADVOCACY NETWORK (TOWER HAMLETS)

seeks applications from people with disabilities for the following post

MANAGER, 28 HOURS PER WEEK, AT PO2, £21,010 (point 35) pro rata

The Advocacy Network is an expanding, independent organisation. This is an exciting opportunity for the right person to manage and develop an advocacy service for people with disabilities.

Applicants must have: 1. at least 2 years experience of staff and budget management, 2. experience of project development and fundraising, 3. knowledge of the role of advocacy and self advocacy, 4. understanding of primary and community care structures, and 5. the ability to work to tight deadlines.

For further details and an application, ring or write: Disability Advocacy Network, Dame Colet House, Ben Jonson Road, London E1 3NH. Tel: 071 702 7173.

(DAN is moving office, so you may reach the answerphone. Please do leave a message.)

Closing date 1 August 1994

Interviews 9 August 1994.



DIAL UK
The Disability Helpline

DIAL UK is the national organisation for a network of advice centres run by and for disabled people. We are looking for a :-

TRAINING OFFICER

to implement training services for workers in disability advice centres. The work will involve establishing training needs, devising appropriate training materials and delivering some training courses. This post is for three years in the first instance.

Salary : £13,002 - £16,962 depending upon experience.

The successful applicant will have proven training skills. The post is based in Doncaster but will involve some travel to other parts of the UK.

Further details and application forms (large s.a.c) from the Director, DIAL UK, Park Lodge, St. Catherines Hospital, Tickhill Road, Doncaster, DN4 8QN. Telephone : 0302-310123.

Applications from people with disabilities will be especially welcome.

Closing date : 22 July

Interviews : 1/2 August



PERSONNEL MANAGER

c£25,000 + Benefits

London

Habinteg is an expanding charitable housing association, building homes for rent for able-bodied and disabled people. A quarter of our stock accommodates wheelchair users and their families in bungalows and flats, integrated with two storey dwellings in housing schemes around the country.

With currently 80 staff, we are looking to appoint a confident IPM Graduate with at least three years' experience to fulfill the post of Personnel Manager. This is a new position offering the perfect opportunity to develop and manage the human resource function, providing a full range of personnel services to include personnel administration, training, appraisals and Health & Safety.

Reporting to the Chief Executive and with the initial brief of developing and implementing a formal Equal Opportunities policy and a new training policy, we are seeking someone with the ability and commitment to readily take on these responsibilities. Applicants must be highly motivated, have a thorough knowledge of employment law and good word processing skills, together with practical experience in all personnel activities.

If you are able to offer the above qualities, please write or telephone for an application form and information pack to:

Trisha Langley, Habinteg Housing Association, 10 Nottingham Place, London W1M 3FA. (Tel: 071-486 3519)

CV's will not be considered.

Habinteg promotes a policy of Equal Opportunities and welcomes applications from all sections of the community. Suitably qualified applicants with disabilities will be guaranteed an interview. We provide a non-smoking environment at work.

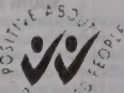
Closing date for applications:

12 July 1994

Interview date(s):

26/27 July 1994

NO AGENCIES PLEASE



TO ADVERTISE YOUR VACANCIES/COURSES please contact the Advertisement Director, Richard Gresham, Kingslea Press Ltd, 12 Dock Offices, Surrey Quays Road, London SE16 2XU. Tel: 071-252 1362 Fax: 071-237 8019

Disability Now Subscription Rates

Individual at home address: one year, £10, two years, £19.
Organisations/authorities: one year, £15, two years, £29.
Overseas: one year, £20.

Multiple copies: 2 copies £24; 3 copies £36; 4 copies £48; 5 copies £60; 6-9 copies £72; 10-50 copies £100; 51-100 copies £125. One year only.

Deadlines for *Disability Now's* August issue: booking by 15 July, camera ready art-work/copy by 19 July.

NEWS QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Five
2. Judge Harkness' wife and two daughters
3. Bill Clinton
4. Willie Carson
5. 60
6. One third
7. Bradford
8. Alexander Solzhenitsyn
9. John Major
10. The Mormon Church.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

- ACROSS: 1. Drainage
5. Bad 7. Alphabet soup
8. Everest 9. Slam
10. Eventually 13. Braille
15. Nil 16. Pain 17. Elope
19. Mimic 20. Fire
DOWN: 1. Diabetes
2. Ample 3. Neatest
4. Great Balls of
5. Broadly 6. De Plume
9. Sleeper 11. Emblem
12. Trip 14. Alec
15. Nom 18. Pi

FRIENDSHIP AGENCIES

THE PHONE-A-FRIEND CLUB
"The Friendship Club" for new friends or more friends. Singles and couples aged 18+. Disabled welcome. SAE to 24 King's Road, London NW10 2BP. Tel: 081-459 4218.

Anybody - Any Age - Anywhere - Able-bodied or Disabled. Choose Your Own Ideal Relationship. **Mutual Essential Links**, 1 Weir Street, Northwich, Cheshire CW9 5HL. Tel: 0606 49093 (24hrs).



For people with disabilities. Be assertive and join Handidate.
The Wellington Centre
52 Chevallier Street
Ipswich, Suffolk IP1 2PB.
Telephone: (0473) 226950.

HOUSING ASSOCIATIONS CHARITABLE TRUST

REQUIRES A SECRETARY/ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Job share - 2.5 days per week (17.5 hours)

You will, with the existing job share partner, be responsible for providing secretarial and administrative services to two Housing Advisors in a small housing specialist charity.

You should enjoy working on your own initiative, have excellent secretarial skills, including Word Perfect V.I, a good telephone manner and the ability to organise and prioritise your work. You will also need excellent communication skills and enjoy working within a team.

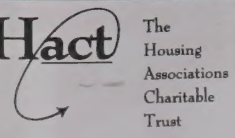
Salary per annum: £15,502 (including London Weighting) pro rata.


For an application form and full details please write to HACT at Yeoman House, 168-172 Old Street, London EC1V 9BP or telephone 071 336 7877.

Closing date for applications: Friday 8 July 1994
Interviews to be held on: Friday 15 July 1994

HACT is working towards equal opportunities and welcomes applicants from all sections of the community.

HACT has a No Smoking Policy





Production Trainee

Children's Programmes *BBC Television*

Children's BBC – the largest producer of Children's television programmes in the world – are offering a nine month training opportunity specifically to applicants with disabilities. The trainee will start in September 1994 and will work on *Blue Peter* where they will gain experience in a range of production skills.

During the nine months you will be involved in research, developing ideas, writing scripts, working with contributors and working on studio, film and outside broadcast shoots. You should be prepared to work outside office hours and away from home as necessary.

You must be able to demonstrate a keen interest in and enthusiasm for Children's television and want to produce high quality programmes for our demanding audience. You will need to be able to demonstrate your creative flair and imagination and be able to communicate your ideas in a clear and coherent manner. You must be able to work effectively as part of a team as well as being able to use your initiative. You should be educated to A level standard or equivalent (such as BTEC National Diploma).

In addition to the application form, candidates are asked to send in the following:

1. An idea for an item for *Blue Peter* which should be 250 words maximum.
2. A review of a recent episode of *Blue Peter* which should be 350 words maximum.

At the end of the training you should be able to compete for vacancies within the department, although further employment cannot be guaranteed.

Salary £14,404 p.a. plus £1588 allowance p.a. Based West London.

For an application form send a **postcard** (quote ref. 15663/DI) by July 12th to **BBC Recruitment Services, PO Box 7000, London W12 7ZY.**
Tel: 081-749 7000 Minicom 081-752 5151.
Application forms to be returned by July 15th.

WORKING FOR EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CLOTHING WORKSHOPS

RESEARCH WORKER/DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

TO RESEARCH AND ESTABLISH A NETWORK OF COMMUNITY BASED CLOTHING SERVICES FOR DISABLED PEOPLE THROUGHOUT THE U.K.

The post is a 3 year fixed term contract, 24 hours per week in Year 1 and full-time in Years 2 and 3.

The successful candidate will need to communicate well and have practical experience of disability issues.

Good public relations and marketing skills together with the ability to use a PC will be an advantage.

Self-motivation and an ability to travel extensively throughout the U.K. essential.

The post will be home-based with training and support as required.

Salary £17,019 (pro rata in Year 1)

For further information write to:
The Secretary, NACW, C/O Fashion Services for People with Disabilities, The Greenfield Centre, Green Lane, Baildon, West Yorkshire BD17 5JS.
Closing date for applications: 15th July 1994.

WILTSHIRE USERS NETWORK

Development Worker SO1 £15,903, for 37 hours per week, initially for two years.


We need an energetic and flexible development worker to facilitate User involvement from within our independent User controlled organisation by enabling service Users to welcome new members by acting as local links in our Network in which we support each other to speak out in a variety of ways about the services we receive. The worker will also act to facilitate Users in specific pieces of work as they occur.


Applicants need an understanding of collective empowerment and the role a development worker plays in this.

An ability to work with disabled people as colleagues and to travel Country-wide from our Devizes office base is essential. Applications from service Users and other disabled people are welcome.

An application pack is available from The Convenor, Wiltshire Users Network, 7 Prince Maurice Court, Devizes, SN10 2RT. Telephone: 0380 725213

Closing date for applications: 22 July





DIAL UK is the national organisation for a network of advice centres run by and for disabled people. We are looking for a :-

INFORMATION OFFICER

to produce high quality information materials, to provide a support service to workers in disability advice centres and to develop the DIAL UK information collection. This post is for 3 years in the first instance.

Salary : £13,002 - £16,962 depending upon experience.

The successful applicant will be a disabled person with proven information service experience. and excellent writing and interpersonal skills.

Further details and application forms (large s.a.c) from the Director, DIAL UK, Park Lodge, St. Catherines Hospital, Tickhill Road, Doncaster, DN4 8QN. Telephone : 0302-310123.

This post is open only to people with disabilities.

Closing date : 22 July Interviews : 1/2 August

The Guinness Trust is a charity and registered housing association providing over 13,000 homes for rent throughout the country.

We are looking to recruit the following post for our new area office in Chelmsford:

RECEPTIONIST/TYPIST

Part-time (Afternoons)

Salary £4,770 for 20 hour week
(Inclusive of Outer London Weighting)

We are looking for a part-time Receptionist/Typist to operate the reception desk and provide a typing service to the Area Team. Hours are 20 per week, 1pm-5pm, Monday to Friday, but some flexibility will be required.

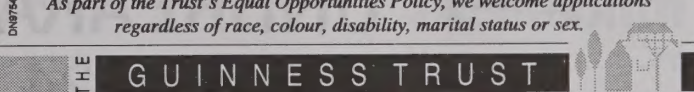
The successful candidate will have:

- ☐ Good keyboard skills
- ☐ Organisational skills
- ☐ Pleasant telephone manner
- ☐ Experience of working in an office environment

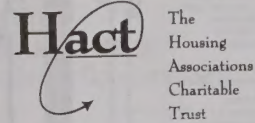
For further information and an application form, please contact the Personnel Department, clearly stating the reference number 94/L/16, on 081 519 9944 (24 hour answerphone).

Closing date for receipt of applications: Tuesday 5th July 1994.
Interviews are expected to be held on: Tuesday 12th July 1994.

As part of the Trust's Equal Opportunities Policy, we welcome applications regardless of race, colour, disability, marital status or sex.



HACT SEEKS NEW TRUSTEES



HACT is a specialist national grant-making charity, supporting the work of the voluntary housing sector throughout the UK, encouraging innovation and the development of new ideas and good practice in all areas of housing provision.

Following a reorganisation of the committee structure, HACT is now seeking new Trustees with expertise and skills in the following areas:-

- * Housing Provision - for People with Special Needs, or Older People, or Black and Ethnic Minority Communities or Refugees
- * Finance, Administration or English Law
- * Fundraising and Public Relations

We are interested in encouraging applications from people throughout the UK; people with disabilities, and people from black and ethnic minority communities.

HACT Trustees are unpaid, although actual expenses are reimbursed.

HACT is working to achieve equal opportunity in all aspects of its activities.

For an information pack and application form, please contact Joanna Gardner, HACT, Yeoman House, 168-172 Old Street, London EC1V 3BP (Tel: 071-336 7774). For an informal chat, please contact Vivien Knibbs, HACT's Director.

Steelers take Eurocup title

Action Steelers made history in May when they became the first British team to win the Eurocup wheelchair basketball final.

The Sheffield team came from behind to beat French champions Meaux 54-51 at Milton Keynes.

Action Steelers made a perfect start. Brilliant baskets from Callum Gordon, Dave Bramley and Philip Craven gave them a 33-23 half-time lead, but Meaux hit back after the break.

French international Philip Baye reached top form during a tense second half. He levelled the score at 37-37 and then gave Meaux a vital lead.

With only three minutes left and Great Britain international Mark Cheaney off the field, it looked a tough task for the

Sheffield team. But baskets from Bramley and Gordon gave Steelers a four point advantage as the game entered the final minute.

Meaux hit back to reduce the margin to just two points, before the Steelers' skipper, Colin Price, settled the match with a free basket.

"That was an amazing match," said Price. "The last few minutes were very tense and I was very relieved to see that final basket go in. This is an important victory for British wheelchair basketball as it proves we can compete with the best teams in Europe."

The tournament's most valuable player, Gert Jan van der Linden, led BC Verkerk to third place. They beat SA Antilope in an all-Dutch play-off.



Peter Smith, of the Gateshead Kestrels, sets the pace at the Mini Games GRAHAM BOOL PHOTOGRAPH

Schools dazzle at Mini Games

The British Sports Association for the Disabled (BSAD) hosted the 1994 Mini Games at Stoke Mandeville, Aylesbury, in May.

The national games were organised for disabled children aged between seven and 11. Almost 100 children from 12 schools competed in a wide

range of sports, including athletics, table cricket, swimming, boccia and polybat.

Firs School in the West Midlands and the Marjorie McClure School in Kent were presented with team trophies after winning their events, and Stacey Ryan, from Manchester, was named as BSAD player of

the championships.

BSAD spokesman Gordon Neil said: "Everyone had a lot of fun and we were very impressed with the standard."

Sport is written by
Tim Russell,
tel: 071-636 5020

Plain sailing in Rutland

The world's top sailors will be arriving in Britain next month to take part in the World Disabled Sailing Championships at Rutland Water.

Up to 30 crews from 15 countries are expected to take part in the prestigious event, which is being organised by Sailability.

Two British teams led by helmsmen Andy Cassell and Kevin Curtis, are taking part.

They will sail Squib Class boats.

Eleven of Britain's best sailors warmed up for the event by competing in the Rother Valley Regatta at Watersports Centre in May.

The hardy competitors braved stormy conditions to race for the top title. Ian Harrison was the overall winner, Ken James came second and Steve Gregg third.

Disability Now offers

UNBREAKABLE FLASK

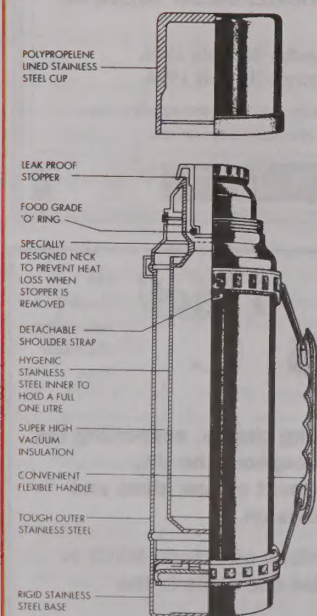
ONLY £24.95 inc p&p

This durable flask is perfect for summer outings and picnics. Fully guaranteed, it is made from stainless steel and should last a lifetime. The highly efficient flask will keep liquids such as tea, coffee or soup piping hot, and cold drinks chilled for many hours. Put to the test, liquid poured into the flask at 95°C only fell to 88°C after six hours. It was still hot (down to 60°C) a day later.

The flask measures almost 14in high, and has a useful carrying handle with an adjustable shoulder strap. It conforms to British Safety Standards 6672.

CREDIT CARD HOTLINE

0483 268888



I enclose my cheque/PO (no cash please) for £ made payable to: **DN Unbreakable Flask Offer**
or debit my: ☐ Access ☐ Visa Card No.

DN0012

..... Expiry date

Name (Capitals)

Address

..... Postcode

Daytime telephone Signature

Send to: **DN Unbreakable Flask Offer, JEM House, Little Mead, Cranleigh, Surrey GU6 8ND**

Please send me:

.....Unbreakable

Flask (s) at

£24.95 each

Orders are processed within 48 hrs of receipt. Please allow 21-28 days for delivery. If you are not satisfied, we will refund your money if you return the goods undamaged within a week.



Champions: Marjorie McClure School, Kent, celebrate after winning the BSAD team trophy at the Mini Games

World speed bid fails

Former traffic policeman Ken Moss came agonisingly close to breaking the world land speed record for blind drivers at Elvington airfield in May.

Moss, 37, from Scarborough, achieved 137 mph over a kilometre at the York airfield, but a

blow-out in one of his rear tyres left him with too little time to complete the run in the allotted time. The existing record is 134.68 mph.

Mr Moss was a traffic patrol officer. He lost his sight in a car accident two years ago.